FEBRUARY 2025 VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2

THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma

New! **Mercury Lite 600 watt amplifier** p. 71

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Cover:
Westport, WA
Light Station
ARLHS USA-342
WLLW US-0062
December 2024
Photo by Dave W7UUU

W7DK 2024 Officers and Committee Leaders

Executive Committee:

President:	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Vice President:	Manny Adonis AD7MA
Secretary:	Gary McAdams WG7X
Treasurer:	(Acting) Doug Schafer AB7DG

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Board:	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board:	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board:	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board:	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
Board:	Dave Ashley W7GEL

Key Committee Chairpersons:

Membership:	George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Salmon Run:	George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Infotech/IT:	Randy WB4SPB
HF Operations:	Phil K7PIA
Facilities:	Adam W2NCC
Property Mgmt.	Red WB7EC
Museum:	Dan KD7SV
Planning:	Manny AD7MA
POTA:	BJ KO7T
General Meeting:	Dave W7UUU
Bark layout & Editor:	Dave W7UUU
Assistant/Copy Editor:	Anne N7ANN

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xx=nothing submitted

But don't stop there! Each issue is 50 or more pages of fun and cool stuff to explore! Scroll on!

Have a submission for our next issue?

loggersbark@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Adam Barbera W2NCC

HELLO EVERYONE! MOVING INTO THE NEW YEAR, I can see a lot of good things starting to happen for the club. The board is busy reviewing budgets and getting us ready for the new year.

Several ideas for growing and developing the Radio Club of Tacoma have been discussed by the planning committee. They're thinking of fresh ways to improve our activities and broaden our outreach. If you have any suggestions or activities you'd like to see, we encourage you to pass them on to Planning Chairman, Manny AD7MA. Your feedback would be helpful in determining which activities should be a priority.

Last year, Mike W7XH revamped our website. It's now been made possible that members can renew their membership online, making it easier than ever. Members can fill out an online form and make a donation through PayPal. Additionally, event-specific and general donation options are available on the website too.

Our move of general meetings to the Pine Street Eagles Club has made all the difference. This venue comfortably accommodates over 100 people and offers food and beverage services. The atmosphere is great for everyone. It's been wonderful to have a greater turnout at our meetings. When you come, I encourage you to stay a bit longer afterward to socialize with other members.

BJ KO7T continues to run monthly Parks on the Air (POTA) activations, which has growing interest. There's exciting talk about activating Blake Island and Islands in the Strait of Georgia. If you have not yet participated in a POTA event I encourage you to join in the fun.

We had a good turnout for the beginner soldering class we offered last year. In December, Paul N7OSS, hosted another class where participants chose kits and put their soldering skills to the test. Paul will be hosting more kit-building classes this year, so be on the lookout for details.

Join the HF room operations on Thursday nights with Mike W7MKE and Gary WG7X. This is an opportunity for members to experience HF ops, ask questions and work different modes. If you have ever been interested in HF, this is a great opportunity to get involved.

With all the exciting activities and events planned, 2025 is shaping up to be an incredible year for the club. Your participation makes all the difference.

Adam W2NCC

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X

IT'S COLD AND DAMP AND THAT'S THE WAY WE LIKE IT!

So, here we are in the depths of winter in the Pacific Northwest; it's been gray and gloomy for weeks and we really like it that way!

Plenty of time to pursue things on the ham bands, and usually, there are more good DX stations around in the winter. Ten meters has been *very* good lately. Here at radio WG7X, I spent some time doing the ARRL ten-meter contest. Only did about one hundred contacts due mostly to other things taking place, not because the propagation was poor.

I also spent a bit of time doing the ARRL RTTY Round-up. This was an all-band contest, but again, most of my contacts were on the 10-meter band. I guess you can see that I am a fan of ten meters…

So on to bigger and better things!

By now, the new officers are settled into their new jobs, folks at the club seem to be enjoying the new equipment in the HF room! There have been some settling-in issues, but at present, it's mostly operational. We (the HF folks) are struggling a bit with getting RTTY to work on the Icom station, but it is a work in progress, and we'll get it figured out soon (I hope).

In any event, Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE started a Thursday evening operating event at the W7DK Clubhouse. I am usually there also. Come on down and get on the stations and make a contact or two! That time of the evening (1800 – 2000 hours), propagation on the upper bands might not be so good, but we have been having great success using the low bands (40 & 80 meters).

On another subject, folks in the club are starting to come to the general meetings in larger numbers. Remember that the general meetings are now held in the Eagles Aerie at 72nd and Pine in Tacoma.

Eagles South Tacoma #2933, 7037 S. Pine Street is the actual address and we're also on Zoom. Information on this and other meetings is always on our website W7DK.org.

OK, that's enough from me this month! I'll see you all at the meetings, whether or not its on a Saturday at the open house, or one of the other scheduled meetings I've talked about here!

73! -Gary WG7X, Secretary W7DK

AS OF THIS WRITING, the California wildfires are still being fought, following the utter devastation that began on January 8th, 2025. Regardless of affixing blame, attributing incompetence, or any of the political ramifications from any side, the reality is this is a devastating loss for a great many people. Not just movie stars and billionaires. From mansions to mobile homes (over 250 lost), these horrible fires affected the *entire* community. As of this writing (January 15, 2025) approximately 175,000 people from all walks of life have been displaced from their homes in Los Angeles county.

And it should go without saying that a large number of fellow amateur radio operators have tragically been caught up in all of this as well.

The three most affected areas are the neighborhoods of Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and the city of Malibu. Of these three communities, a total of 647 radio amateurs are registered with license addresses in these areas (Source: FCC)… Pacific Palisades with 141 hams, Malibu at 242, and the largest number, 264, registered in Altadena. Just how many homes where these hams resided and had their stations destroyed is unknown at this time.

But most assuredly the destruction was immense for a great number of this group of our amateur radio brethren.

In October 2020 I lost my entire shack to a devastating fire but our house remained untouched, thank God. But I cannot even begin to grasp what these families are going through right now—rich, poor, famous, John-Q public, young, old, republican, democrat—and regardless of blame—everyone loses. Please keep all those affected in your thoughts and prayers, and donate to legitimate organizations as your ability allows. I wish for an ultimate recovery for all but that road, sadly, will be long.

-Dave W7UUU

Fire fighters from the USFS Taskforce 1600 who were assigned to battling the more than 15,000 house fires in Pacific Palisades, CA, with virtually no water pressure.

January 13, 2025 photo by Captain 343 Victor Guillen of the U.S. Forest Service. License: Public Domain, click photo to view source

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from around the world

Web

IDXC

76th International DX Convention
April 11-13, 2025
Visalia, CA

The 76th Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Northern California DX Club will be held at Visalia Conference Center in Visalia, California from April 11th - 13th, 2025. Learn the secrets of working DX quickly and efficiently. Discover the fun of chasing IOTA. Attend the Contest Forum, DX Forum, Contest Academy, DX Academy or the all new Next Generation DXing Program. There are seminars for everyone from the beginning DXer to the seasoned pro. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and build the best DX equipment. And of course, we have some great raffle Prizes! Please note: Registration is now FREE for guests under 18 years of age! Your 2025 IDXC Co-Chairs:
Paul Ewing N6PSE, Ned Stearns AA7A, and Clay Couger N5YJZ.

IDXC 2025
CLICK HERE
Conference Registration is Now Open!
You can register for the conference at https://www.cognitoforms.com/IDXC2025/RegistrantInformation
Looking for past convention photos
Hotel Registration is open!
The IDXC 2025 Website is Live!

FRAM2

FIRST HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT TO EARTH'S POLAR REGIONS

The Fram2 mission is set to become the first human space flight in polar orbit – flying over the North and South poles. Named after the famous polar exploration ship Fram, which completed voyages to both the Arctic and Antarctica, we want to showcase pioneering spirit, wonder and technological innovation through the ages. The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch four astronauts from Europe and Australia into orbit for 3-5 days, targeted launch is set for spring 2025 (soon!). On board the Dragon spacecraft are mission commander Chun Wang of Malta, vehicle commander Jannicke Mikkelsen of Norway, pilot Rabea Rogge of Germany and mission specialist Eric Philips of Australia. During the Fram2 mission Rabea Rogge, LB9NJ (Norway) and KD3AID (USA), will be operating the onboard amateur (ham) radio system sending SSTV images as part of a high school and university student competition. These SSTV images will also be available to be received by the general public during her mission. Read more about Fram2 and its crew here: f2.com

Photo credit: SpaceX

2025 YOUTH ON THE AIR CAMP APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending the 2025 Youth on the Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators, ages 15 through 25, who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 15 - 20, 2025, in Thornton (Denver), Colorado and the Denver Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club, is the local host.

The current application period is for the fifth camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America. For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by 2359Z on January 15, 2025. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1.

To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone within an allocation decline acceptance, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1 and up to 50 campers will be accepted. The application process is free, but a $100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the $100 deposit, they may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada. Travel during camp events is provided.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org or email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at director@youthontheair.org.

Youth on the Air

Content ©ARRL, Inc.

Dear Editor,

G'day from down under! I love your excellent monthly publication—great reading. Thanks for making it available to all via QRZ.com. Seasons greetings to all W7DK club members.

-Phil VK6GX
Gidgegannup, Western Australia

Phil was the only one to find the Hidden Object in the December issue (the BB gun) and was mailed some stickers, proudly displayed below from in is shack in Oz.

■ *-editor*

Dear Editor,

After reading *The Logger's Bark* January 2025 edition, I had to filter my log for Pierce County and see if I might qualify for a Logger's Certificate… and it looks like I have it! I was stationed at Sub Base Bangor on the USS Henry M. Jackson from 1984-1989. Please review my log—who wouldn't want to proudly display a Logger's Certificate!

The *Logger's Bark* is the absolute Premium Standard and is properly named a "magazine". Every page is well-written, beautifully laid-out, and thoroughly engaging. As in the article about the first Bark issue… I could smell the freshly printed mimeograph paper…. The best!

73,
Howard WZ4K
Newport News, VA

Dear Howard,

Wow—thanks so much for the kind words. It's really nice to know that there are at least a few folks out there who actually read The Bark and don't just say they do when they actually never opened it.

Yes—you totally qualify for a W7DK Logger's Certificate! I have printed it out for you & mailed it, and included an assortment of QRZ stickers as well as a couple W7DK ones as well. 73 for now and Happy Holidays to you and yours.

-Dave W7UUU, editor

Phil—VK6GX in his shack
Gidgegannup, Western Australia

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W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

Classic "first award" for Members

HAVE YOU APPLIED for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.

There are no confirmations required, no logs to submit, and really no rules other than the call signs you submit must be members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater… every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, W7RGD using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, W7UYL (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper…. So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put "Logger's Certificate" in the subject line… ■ *-editor*

Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!

Barbara Osborne W7UYL in 1955 an RCT USO event

The Club's first ever out-of-state issued Logger's Certificate! #693 issued 1/1/2025 Earned by Aaron Anderer N6ACA in Livermore, CA Having worked the following members: W7UUU, KG7V, W7JSJ, W7DK, N9MII, N7OMS, W7XH, AD7MA, WB7EC and KG7V

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By KA7NWF

Leonard KA7NWF

"For years I was interested in becoming a ham, but was not sure how to go about it. In 1982, there was an ad in the Mercer Island (Washington) paper about a couple who lived a half a mile away that were giving a Novice class and test. I went, got my code speed to the required five wpm, and passed the written. In June of 1982 I received my call of KA7NWF, which I have kept all these years. The couple who gave the class, Ann (WB7BZQ) and Dick (WB7BZR) sold me a Yaesu FT-301S, power supply, key and a few odds and ends. I set up a long wire, made about five or six contacts within a week, and then I could not hear anybody. It turns out that the wire broke about three feet from the house, and a stub does not work well as an antenna. Shortly after that, I went to college and then lived in several rentals where I could not put up any sort of antenna, so was not on the air for quite some time. I finally ended up in Auburn, Washington, where the landlord let me put up an antenna only when I was home, so unless I had an hour to set it up and take it down, as well as talk time, I wasn't on the air much. I joined the Radio Club of Tacoma in November of 2006. A few years later I took my Technician and General class exams and passed. On my birthday in 2011 I took and passed my Extra exam, and shortly after became a VE and have been doing test sessions ever since. In September of 2020 I moved to Tacoma, where my landlord allowed me to have an antenna up full time. Unfortunately, the antenna is not very high, radiates NE/SW, so I have not made a lot of contacts. Since joining the club, I took two or three shifts a year at our booth at the Washington State Fair until they no longer wanted us. Most frequently I'm a greeter and raffle ticket seller at the meetings, and help out when and where I can based on my availability. Other interests are reading science fiction, going to science fiction conventions and working on the computer".

Lighthouses on the Air

One hundred thirty-five steps spiral
to the top of the Grays Harbor Lighthouse
Fresnel light built 1895 in Paris, France
First lit in1898

Photos by Dave W7UUU

Lighthouses on the Air

By Dave W7UUU

ANNE N7ANN AND I RECENTLY SPENT time in Westport, Washington over a stormy weekend. A big focus of the trip was a 2-day POTA activation of the Westport Light State Park (park US-3290). The lighthouse for which the park is named is actually just adjacent to the park itself, on U.S. Navy land to the East of the park border.

The Grays Harbor Lighthouse (or Westport Light) as it's also known is situated on Point Chehalis on the southern side of the entrance to Grays Harbor and has been here since it was first lit in 1898. At 107 feet, it's the third tallest on the West coast, and located 3000 feet from the water's edge (originally 400 feet but decades of accretion have slowly built the shoreline up and thus farther away from the light).

In addition to touring the tower itself and learning its history, my goal was to assess the location for a radio outing I've never done: a Lighthouse on the Air activation! Tour guide Keith informed me that just a few years ago, the local Grays Harbor Amateur Radio Club (GHARC) had in fact done just that—with a club-sponsored activation during the ILLW - the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend annual event.

But as I started looking more into the project, I quickly realized there isn't a single unified organization and database of lighthouses around the world like there is for Parks on the Air (POTA). It was somewhat confusing at first until I spent a few hours going down the rabbit hole of amateur radio lighthouse activation groups in the world.

WLOTA: World Lighthouses On The Air—The history of amateur radio combined with lighthouses traces back to the early 1990s in France, with an original award program called the WLH-Award created in 1997 by four French hams: Bruno F5SKJ, Phil F5OGG, Thierry (an SWL), and Guy F6DGT (SK). In 2005, additional staff came on board bringing a new program of awards, with a name change to the current WLOTA. According to their website, the program is managed not only by WLOTA but also a group known as WLH-Award Association along with Radio Amateur France (R.A.F.). It must be noted that according to the WLOTA rules page, this group only recognizes lighthouses that are located on islands, with further criteria being that the beam (of the light) must be viewable not less than 10 nautical miles. So of course this rules out a great many lighthouses that are located in the U.S. with the exception of states with islands in very large lakes such as the Great Lakes and other large inland lake areas with shipping traffic and island-based signal lights of sufficient light range.

Site navigation is a little clumsy but can be managed by searching the WLOTA lists by continent. For example, the North American Countries List indicates there are 716 lighthouse islands across the continent that are referenced for activations by country and region. Of these, 188 are classed as "easy access", 405 as "difficult access", and 123 that are

"very difficult access". Clicking on your country in the list (for example, "K, W, N, AA, AK United States of America" will take you to a landing page showing a map of the U.S.. Logic would suggest that by clicking on a state such as Washington, you'd be taken to a list of lights in that state.

However, clicking anywhere on the map simply takes you to the QST landing page of the ARRL. Instead, scroll down to your state and select it from the list. In the case of Washington, there are eight lighthouses listed (Westport of course not being one of them, as it is not on an island). There is an associated WLOTA reference number for each of the lighthouses on the list. Needless to say, U.S. states lacking islands will not appear on the list.

Despite much searching in all of the links on the WLOTA site, I was never able to find a way to register for an account. There is a login dialog (in French but easy enough to figure out) and a way to retrieve a forgotten password. Perhaps a reader will email me to advise how to create an account, register for an activation, and apply for WLOTA awards. But based on many of the page links, it appears this site is not particularly well maintained at this time.

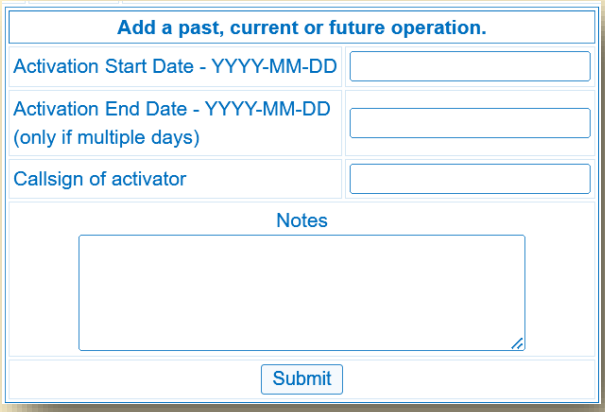
ILLW, International Lighthouse Weekend, became the second amateur radio lighthouse activation event (and organization) begun in 1998, having evolved from the Scottish Northern Lighthouses Award Weekend. Over the years it's grown to be a very popular event, attracting amateur radio operators to lighthouses in an estimated 95 countries. The ILLW is an annual weekend event held the third full weekend of August each year. It is currently managed by Australian amateur radio operator Kevin Mulcahy VK2CE who has been a part of the event since the beginning. Mulcahy now owns the domain and website, www.illw.net. The event for 2025 will begin at 00:01 UTC August 16th, concluding 24:00 UTC on August 17th for a full 48 hours of operating.

Recent ILLW activation of the Grays Harbor Westport WA lighthouse by Grays Harbor Amateur Radio Club. The crew consisted of: Randy K7NOJ, Dain K7SXN, Brett KK7KAV, Tom W7TEG, & Shawn (Ham to be). Photo: Randy K7NOJ, GHARC

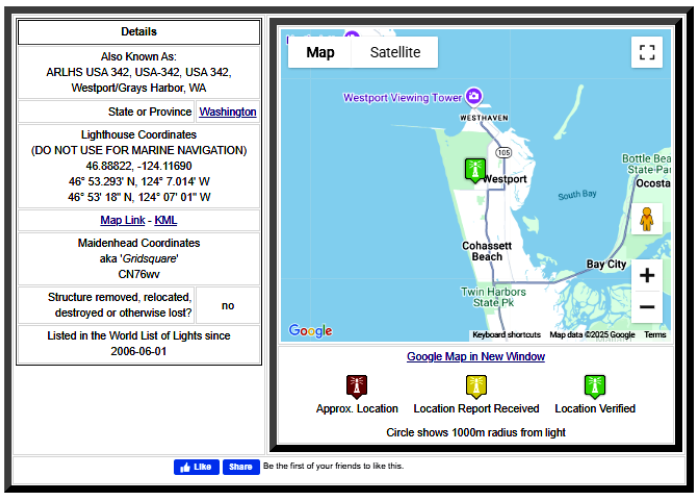
An important tenet of ILLW is that not only is the event not a contest, there are also no awards, certificates, prizes, or other enticements to participate. It is simply an opportunity for hams around the world to gather at their local lighthouses and make contacts on a single weekend. Total QSO counts are, however, allowed to be submitted. Participants are more than welcome to send in reports of their adventures including photos, QSO counts, and even YouTube video links if desired. For reference here is the Reports page from the 2024 ILLW event [LINK]. Registration application can be made at THIS LINK on the ILLW website for the 2025 event.

ARLHS Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, founded in the year 2000, actually comes the closest to what the "OTA activation hams" might think of for activating a lighthouse for the purpose of amateur radio contacts. By this I mean that it is not just a single event (although ARLHS does sponsor specific events throughout the year), but also a means to reference a specific lighthouse and schedule an activation on any day or weekend of the year. This makes it very similar to POTA (Parks on the Air) or SOTA (Summits on the Air). And unlike ILLW and WLOTA, the ARLHS also offers awards that can be achieved. **Award categories include**: Activator Award, Activator of the Year Award, Worked All U.S. Call Areas Award, and others that you can view at THIS LINK.

And just like POTA, the ARLHS maintains a detailed list of lighthouses at The World List of Lights (WLOL). This link will not only present a list of those lighthouses globally that have been catalogued, but also present a very easy form to register a future activation right from the database page for that light:


Add a past, current or future operation.
Activation Start Date - YYYY-MM-DD
Activation End Date - YYYY-MM-DD (only if multiple days)
Callsign of activator
Notes
Submit

Also very similar to POTA, when you look up a lighthouse using WLOL (such as USA-342 in Westport, WA, the subject of this article) you also get a zoomable map and other details of the site:



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And while not as detailed as the activation data that POTA provides, WLOL provides an activation history including notes from prior activators of the site—the example below again from USA-342, Westport:

Amateur radio activity for this Lighthouse			
Start Date	**End Date**	**Callsign**	**Notes**
2021-07-03	2021-07-04	WB7NIL	Portable with TS480 // 40M EFHW // 50W // FT8 and USB Voice 20 and 40M
2007-05-17	2007-05-17	WA7BRL	
2006-04-15	2006-04-15	AC7VA	

Lastly, is the master listing of Current Activations, which includes everywhere in the world. Since we're talking of course of amateur radio, this allows for real challenges for Chasers who want to try for not only domestic lighthouses but DX ones as well:

Lighthouse Radio Activations

Current Activations				
Light #	**Call Sign**	**Date Begin**	**Date End**	**Notes**

Activations during the next 90 days				
Light #	**Call Sign**	**Date Begin**	**Date End**	**Operator(s) Notes**
BRA 288	PR3PA	2025-02-01	2025-02-15	https://www.qrz.com/db/PR3PA
CHI 073	XR2P	2025-02-14	2025-02-16	ELQUI DX GROUP
USA 236	N4T	2025-02-19	2025-02-19	We plan to be on air for a limited time Wednesday from Loggerheasd Lighthouse. N4T will be on air the rest of [. . .]
USA 316	N4T	2025-02-20	2025-02-25	Multi-op/transmitter activation for POTA, WWFF, WCA, IOTA and lighthouses. Log to be uploaded to clublog and P[. . .]

As mentioned, ARLHS not only offers a very POTA-like experience for both activators as well as chasers (including Chaser Awards!), they also sponsor several QSO-party-like events each year.

The ARLHS Spring Lights QSO Party is on for 2025!

That's right—there's still plenty of time to prepare, whether you are an Activator or a Chaser. This event begins at 00:00 UTC on April 17th, 2025 and concludes 24:00 UTC on April 24th. That's a full week (192 hours) available for activating and chasing lighthouses all around the world.

Interested readers can find all the details at THIS LINK including rules, log submissions, etc.

The ARLHS maintains a Groups.io presence as well—although it's not terribly active. You can view the group or join at https://groups.io/g/arlhs/

Lastly, for the sake of the discussion of the three organizations regarding amateur radio operators and lighthouses—what exactly is a lighthouse? As mentioned before, the WLOTA World Lighthouse on the Air group *only* considers lighthouses *on islands* as applicable for their program. But ILLW International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend and ARLHS Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society both have pretty broad acceptance of most all lighthouses that are recognized by the local marine authorities.

Of course, there are many subtleties to this—with slight variations for both organizations. So if you know of a lighthouse you feel should be included, be sure to review the relevant guidelines: for ARLHS CLICK HERE and for ILLW CLICK HERE to read the finer points. Suffice to say, there are exceptions and both have slight variations how they are defined.

What follows next are fun details about USA-342, the lighthouse featured on the cover of this issue. ■ -W7UUU

Grays Harbor Westport Light

By Dave W7UUU

The actual modern light is physically much smaller but has a nearly identical coverage as the original, with a vastly more efficient light source.

Keith explains the mid-20th century 8hp motor that once turned the original Fresnel lens light

Docent tour guide Keith at the original 1895 Fresnel Lense atop the tower

Click this image to see a short video of the raging storm the following night

Manufacturer's plaque affixed to the frame of the light assembly

All Photos by Dave W7UUU

ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer

Dear Mystery Elmer,

Hey there! I know you're a moderator on QRZ and you also write the really cool magazine the Loggers Bark and I saw you have an Elmers column that's kind of like Dear Abby. So maybe you can help answer my question that has to do with QRZ and also is a ham radio question. I am a Technician license (studying for my general) and I like to use a hotspot for D-star radio using my Icom ID-52A radio. I am able to talk all over the world on D-star.

But I have been told that it's not really working DX to use D-star like I'm doing. I can't try to get any DX awards or states awards from ARRL or QRZ because I'm told those awards won't accept D-Star contacts.

I don't understand why. If I talk to a station in Ireland using my ID-52A radio why is that not a DX station and why can't it count for Ireland on DXCC or on QRZ? I don't want to ask this on QRZ because I will probably be called an idiot.

So please don't call me an idiot LOL and just explain why this is.

-Dee Star

Dear Dee,

The very simple answer is D-Star contacts mostly happen over the internet, not so much via actual radio.

In the era before the internet, contacts between ham operators could only be made with radio frequency (RF) signals, and success in the contact depended upon the happy coincidence of many conditions (propagation, antenna design, transmitter power, operator skill, etc.), at both ends of the QSO. Such contacts can be hard won, perhaps requiring you to adjust or improve your station or to hone your operating abilities.

With D-Star and similar digital systems, where the internet is used as an intermediate link between your radio and distant radios, only a very small portion of the distance is actually traversed by RF signals using amateur radio frequencies—mostly only as far as from your ID52A radio to your Hotspot. From there, your voice (and the other station's voice) travel over the internet with no radio involved at all.

There is a lot to be said for such digital voice QSOs: they are dependable, exhibit high-quality audio that's pleasant to hear, and can be very helpful for communicating critical information reliability over long distances.

However the awards you mention were created to recognize the technical and operating effort required to make contacts solely using amateur radio RF signals end to end. Since digital systems like D-Star and others make QSOs relatively effortless by using the internet for the bulk of the contact instead of actual radio, the traditional awards just don't apply. [*Technically, D-Star could be used simplex and be "RF to RF" but that isn't what's being discussed here—internet-linked D-Star contacts –ed*]

-Mystery Elmer

Here are four global radio organizations that do in fact offer awards for internet-linked D-Star contacts:

- Japan Amateur Radio League JARL offers a D-Star award for making a specific number of contacts
- British Amateur Radio Teledata Group BARTG provides multiple digital mode awards including D-Star
- Radio Amateurs of Canada RAC also offers similar awards that also include D-Star
- European PSK Club EPC while primarily supporting the PSK mode also recognizes D-Star for some awards.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Always check the W7DK website for latest news

W7DK

	January		February, 2025				March
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	January	January	January	January	January	January	1 Open House 10 to 2
6	2 10m Social Net	3 Slow Speed CW Net	4 Tuesday Nite Net	5 07:00pm Board meeting	6 Thursday HF Night	7	8 01:00pm General meeting ... Open House 10 to 2
7	9 10m Social Net	10 Slow Speed CW Net	11 07:00pm VE License Exam ... Tuesday Nite Net	12	13 Thursday HF Night	14	15 Open House 10 to 2
8	16 10m Social Net	17 Slow Speed CW Net	18 Tuesday Nite Net	19	20 Thursday HF Night	21	22 Hotdogs & mini-Swap
9	23 10m Social Net	24 Slow Speed CW Net	25 Tuesday Nite Net	26	27 Thursday HF Night	28	March

Recurring Special Contests All Categories ...

Did you know?

As a result of it's short length, the month of February is the only month that doesn't always have a full moon. The term for this is a "Black Moon". The last Black Moon was February 2018 (and 1999 prior to that). The next Black Moon will be February of 2037.

HOMEBREW MORSE KEY

WAY BACK IN DECEMBER 2009, the Radio Club of Tacoma, via the W7OS Museum curator Rich KR7W, announced in *The Logger's Bark* a wooden Morse code key building contest. The object was to create a telegraph key made from at least 90% wood, and be fully functional to use on the air in time for the 2009 Straight Key Night (New Year's Eve). Four club members entered: Harry N7DOE, Alan W7AML, Steve AD7VL, and Mike W7GHW (SK). While all the entries were well done, **there could only be one winner, and that was Steve AD7VL** for his robust and easy-to-use straight key. As noted by the judge at the time, Rich KR7W, "Steve's creation is made out of hardwood flooring scraps left over from his living room remodel. Steve calls his key the Abe Lincoln because he used a penny as one of the electrical contacts".

While I never got to try the other keys myself, I can fully attest to the solidly-built, and highly usable operation of Steve's key. It's actually in my "Boat anchor position" in my own shack in full rotation for use on the air! It's a really solid key no question.

Fast forward now to 10 years later. In the January 2019 QST magazine a similar contest was announced by the ARRL. Entrants in this case could choose to build most any type of key: straight key, semiautomatic (bug), keyer paddle, or a side swiper (aka cootie key).

Alas, this time out Steve did not win the competition for straight keys. That honor went to Ron Spooner W6FIF for his "steampunk inspired" key made from bits of copper pipe. But Steve's key was at least prominently positioned in the judging photo that appeared in the October 2019 issue of QST. (*Note that the key featured on the cover of the magazine was* not *the winning key, but rather just one that had high photo appeal*).

Homemade straight key by Steve AD7VL
Photo: Dave W7UUU

Just this past fall, Steve very kindly passed his entry key on to me not only to write an article about for *The Bark*, but to keep and use on the air for as long as I am able.

As a requirement for the ARRL contest, contestants were required to submit full plans and detailed parts lists for their build.

So this article serves not only as a tribute to the handiwork of Steve AD7VL but also as a "how-to" piece for those who might wish to build their own such key. To me, one of the really fun things about the key is the use of a plain old copper-plated zinc penny for the bottom electrical contact. The contact wire is simply soldered onto the penny! To view the entire build instructions, click THIS LINK or any of the photos on the following page.

-Dave W7UUU

HOMEBREW MORSE KEY

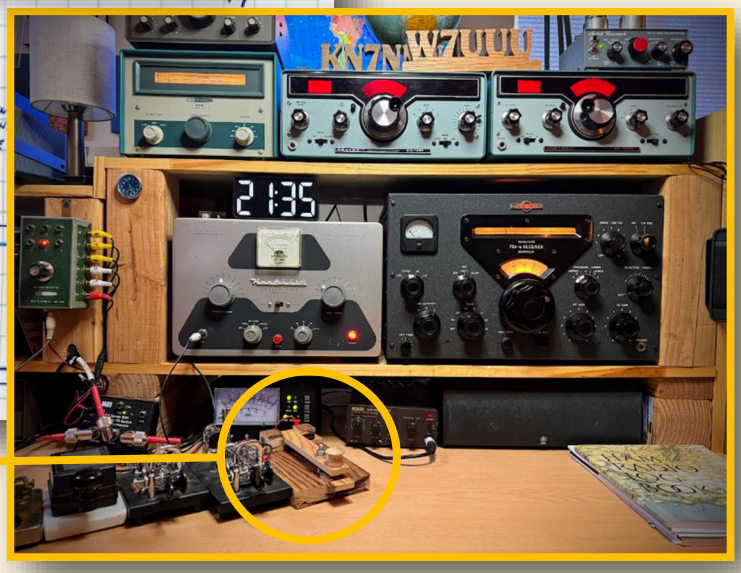
STRAIGH KEY BY AD7VL STEVEN BLACKSTEN 3-23-2019
3/4 THICK HARDWOOD
PADDLE
HOLES #25 DRILL FOR NAIL 8d
DRILL BOTH PILLOW BLOCKS TOGETH WHEN SQUARE
BLOCK BASE
STRAIGHT KEY PARTS LIST

Steve's key at the ARRL contest judging event. Photo ©ARRL, Inc.

Above: view of the penny used as the lower contact

Left: Creator Steve AD7VL

Below: The ARRL submission key as it now resides in my shack—Dave W7UUU



Click on any image to see the full plans for building this key

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STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

A New Years Tradition

By Randy WB4SPB

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT 2025 UTC

Beginning in the early hours of the UTC New Year, jovial, old-timey communication dominates the CW portions of the HF bands. Straight Key Night is an ARRL-sponsored event where traditional Morse code and mechanical telegraph instruments are used. Many hams, including the denizens of the W7OS Antique Radio Museum, double down on the old-fashioned element and dust off their vintage radio equipment.

Photo: Dave W7UUU

As we have for many years, Radio Club of Tacoma members gathered this New Year's Eve at the Clubhouse for our annual Straight Key Night celebration and operating event. There was Morse code upstairs (on radios) and downstairs (on code practice oscillators), with gourmet pizza downstairs (but not up, as WB4SPB can report, having been duly admonished by W7XH). Pot luck contributions included chili from Chef Paul W7PFU, salad from Mike W7XTZ and desserts from a half dozen other participants.

In the Museum, we had three radio sets ready to call CQ SKN DE W7OS. The Knight T-60 (rockbound) and Hallicrafters SX-111 did slightly chirpy duty on 20m until that band closed down. Then we made quite a few QSOs with a handsome, recently donated Hallicrafters HT-32B/SX-101A pair on 40m. We saw almost no activity on 80m, so we finally switched our intended 80m station to 40m so it could get some air time. That last radio set consisted of our Collins 75A4 receiver and another new-to-us transmitter, a Johnson Viking Valiant.

We made 14 QSOs, four on 20m and ten on 40m, to CO, IL, OK, NV, NM, WA, MN, CA, AZ, OR and ID.

We worked AF0AJ, WB8RFB, N5BFD, KC7WXD, KT5X, AF7O, KP0V, AJ6QL, WB7NZI, N6KZ, WA6SEU, WQ7O, KR7W and WB7AEA.

WB7NZI gets our nod for best ragchew of the evening; and kudos to AF7O for hanging in with a very nervous KF7PXB, who regularly and competently uses a keyer paddle but gamely departed his comfort zone to do battle with a straight key.

Our operators were: Paul N7OSS, Randy WB4SPB, Conor N5XR (a visitor from NM with a wonderful fist), Joe KF7PXB, Dan KD7SV and Dave W7UUU.

The Big Key was set up on the floor of the classroom for QLF demonstrations, and several keys brought by attendees were exhibited. This year's Morse Code Bingo caller/sender was Nick K7MO, assisted by Anna K7ANA.

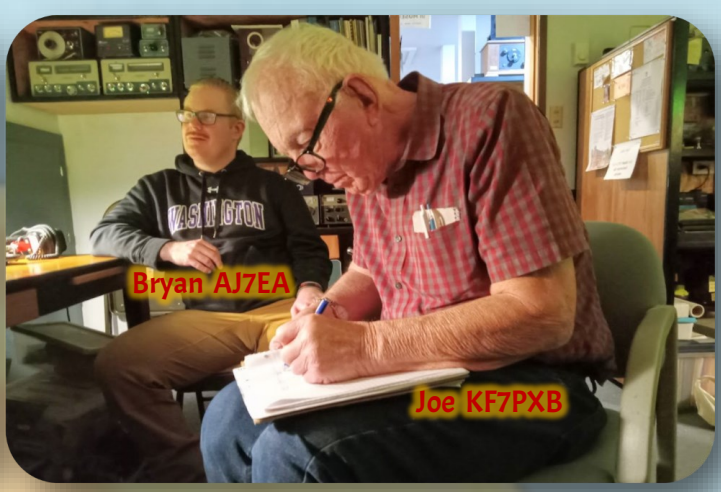
We hope you can join us January 1, 2026, beginning at 0000 UTC, for the next Straight Key Night at Radio Club of Tacoma.

-Randy WB4SPB

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

A New Years Tradition

By Randy WB4SPB



All photos this page by Randy WB4SPB

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STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

A New Years Tradition

By Randy WB4SPB

All photos this page by Dave W7UUU

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STRAIGHT KEY MONTH

An Annual January SKCC Tradition

By Randy WB4SPB

EVERY YEAR DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) sponsors a special activity called Straight Key Month (SKM). During that month, a group of SKCC members takes turns operating the call sign K3Y, qualified with the call area; so, for example, K3Y/7. In addition, Canadian and DX stations participate. SKCC members and non-members alike can get a "Sweep Certificate" for working all ten continental K3Y stations (K3Y/0 thru K3Y/9). And since the operators of K3Y call signs change almost hourly (operated by participants all over the US and Canada), and may be found on all HF bands except 60m, participation is a great way to further your efforts toward "Worked All States" awards.

Dan KD7SV operates as KY3/7 on January 14th, and when this photo was made he was in QSO with your Editor Dave W7UUU!

The W7OS Antique Radio Museum of the Radio Club of Tacoma regularly participates as a K3Y/7 station. This year we have operated several shifts using vintage equipment from the Museum's collection, including Collins, Johnson, Hallicrafters and Drake gear. At this writing, Museum operators KD7SV, K7DRQ and WB4SPB have conducted 63 SKM QSOs.

SKCC is an organization that promotes CW operation using mechanical instruments (straight keys, bugs and side-swipers). There are nearly 30,000 SKCC members worldwide, and any ham can get an SKCC number for free. A menu of activities, incentives and awards encourages contacts with other SKCC members.

SKCC QSOs are especially great for less experienced and rusty CW operators, in part because the SKCC community is very welcoming, but also because SKCC QSOs are usually conducted at a sedate pace and are well-structured. The minimum QSO content is an exchange of RST, state, name and SKCC number, almost always in that order. And while the QSO can end there, it is not unusual to hear operators extending the contact to exchange additional information. Some even develop into a full blown ragchew.

Radio Club of Tacoma CW Elmers encourage you to join SKCC as one way to find QSO partners and develop your CW skill at an easy and relaxed pace.

While the event is over for this year (concluded on January 31, 2025), just remember the SKCC has activities that run every single day with multiple events throughout the year.

We hope to see you next year for Straight Key Night on New Years Eve at the Clubhouse, and Straight Key Month during the entire month of January.

-Randy WB4SPB

IN 1966 MARGIE CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK) put together a wonderful

50th Anniversary

scrapbook of W7DK club news clippings, notable events, photos, etc. This monthly column will run for just a few issues, and feature selected items from the scrapbook just for a glimpse into the club's past. Even those readers who are not a member will still find enjoyment in reading about historical ham radio tidbits from more than half a century ago.

–editor

ON FEBRUARY 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth. His spacecraft, *Friendship 7*, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, atop an Atlas rocket. The mission, part of NASA's Project Mercury, marked a major milestone in the Space Race between the United States and the (former) Soviet Union.

Glenn's journey took him around the Earth three times, with the entire mission lasting approximately 4 hours and 56 minutes. During the flight, Glenn experienced weightlessness, and data from the mission provided valuable insights into the effects of space travel on the human body.

Upon re-entry, Glenn faced difficulties with his spacecraft's heat shield, but the mission was ultimately a success. His achievement made Glenn a national hero, symbolizing American determination in space exploration and inspiring future generations of astronauts.

Tacoma Radio 'Ham' Made Prized Tape Record of Col. Glenn's Ride

RADIO OPERATOR ROGER NACE
Holds Treasured Tape Recording of Astronaut Glenn's Voice 1961

Amateur radio operator Roger Nace, 18, and his dad, Dr. F. M. Nace, Tacoma obstetrician, hold a prize tape recording they teamed up to get Tuesday of Astronaut John H. Glenn's space trip complete with a weather "joke' and human interest sidelights.

"We got up early, at 3 a.m., before blastoff," said Roger, a University of Puget Sound freshman. "I managed to miss all my morning classes, English, calculus and physical education."

Bob Greisel, 18, also a University of Puget Sound freshman, lent a hand and by quick tuning and manipulation of equipment the three recorded words of Glenn and the tracking stations.

Heard Countdown

"The first thing we heard from Canaveral was the countdown," said Roger, sitting next to a black-screened oscilloscope that pulsed with a green signal.

"I don't know if it was a joke or not but when Glenn was over California the California tracking station said 'We are having quite a little bit of rain down here. See if the color contrast looks different over the constline."

Roger said he, his dad and Bob enjoyed "scooping" the news services. "When Glenn was over the Pacific they 'cleared' him for the second and third orbits. We didn't hear this on television till 15 minutes later."

The young ham with call sign K7AYC ("Dad is K7AYD") had the set attuned to 15.016 megacycles.

Station Breaks In

"There was a little human part just as Glenn was coming down," said Roger. "The California station broke into a transmission of the Texas station and said, 'Good luck, John.'"

Young Roger has listened to people from the South Pole, Russians, a fellow who was almost mauled by a polar bear when he went outside to adjust his radio equipment. But the voice of Astronaut Glenn is among the most memorable "captured" by the ham. Roger spent hours editing more than four hours of the orbiting flight to get a small tape of the highlights.

Dad Nace now can get the full story of Glenn's trip. The obstetrician had to miss part of the Tuesday morning short wave broadcast.

"He was called into active service," said Roger. "Dad had to deliver a baby at 8 a.m."

Click photo to view zoomable online version

This article in the Tacoma News Tribune details the audio recording that Roger Nace K7AYC and his dad, Doctor Nace, K7AYD, made the morning of the launch. Margie's ballpoint date of 1961 is obviously not correct. Unfortunately, all efforts to locate this audio tape to date have been zero. *-Dave W7UUU*

HOW ABOUT A COMPLETE AMATEUR TRANSCEIVER

for the low price of $149 fully assembled and tested?! You can't get much more frugal than that.

I just stumbled on this: the zBitx - made by uBitx, it's an amazingly feature-paced 5-watt, all-band, all-mode Software Defined Radio (SDR) transceiver designed for hams on a budget seeking a lot of features in a very small package that's great for portable use—but of course can work just fine from home as well.

Covering the bands from 80 to 10 meters, it supports all the main HF modes: CW, SSB, AM, and FT8, and using the bundled Fldigi software, you also get FreeDV and even SSTV! It's very compact: 5.5 inches by 3 inches by 1.25 inches and weighs just 9 ounces making it exceptionally portable. Combined with a an EFHW antenna, you could have a complete 5w shack in your coat pocket!

Most control is via a 480×320 touch screen, which like all the prior uBitx products is pretty intuitive. The display enables on-screen keyboards for logging and CW if you just want to press letters and have the keyer do the sending.

The transceiver includes a built-in microphone (hmmm… I have to wonder about that!) and speaker, allowing for straightforward SSB use. As for digital modes, the zBitx comes preloaded with applications like Fldigi, FreeDV, and QSSTV, enabling operations such as FT8 without requiring an external computer. That's a big point right there—FT8 with just the transceiver and an antenna.

It operates on two standard 18650 LiPo batteries (not included), housed in an attached battery case, and can also be powered by a 9V external supply so you're good to go for both field (think: POTA) and home use. The transceiver's software is open-source, hosted on GitHub, and benefits from the long-standing uBitx community of developers who will undoubtedly keep on advancing new features and improvements of existing ones.

For CW folks, the zBitx offers features like: ringless CW filtering down to 50 Hz, an on-screen keyboard for easy typing, a sensitive CW decoder (but don't get me started on CW decoders—*learn the dang code and use your head!),* an integrated logger exporting to ADIF format, and editable CW macros for POTA, contesting, or "brag sheet" uses. While I have not played with one, it sounds like uBitx has really upped their game especially for CW and digital folks.

The only serious feature it lacks: a built-in antenna tuner.

Intro price $149… (+$20 S/H, + $8 PayPal upcharge) - however, as of today (January 16, 2025), distributor HF Signals has paused new orders, with the next batch expected to become available sometime this month (February 2025). Prospective buyers are strongly encouraged to join the BITX20 group for the latest updates on availability.

It's really hard… OK—impossible— to find an HF-rig at this price point that does as much as this thing does! Sure it's QRP (5 watts) - use the money you saved and buy an amplifier! I'm hoping that one day soon I can get my hands on one of these to play with and write my own full review. Until then….

73! *-Dave W7UUU*

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Nathan KK7QND (left) and brother Elliott (who just got his license! KK7YTU—congrats!)

Hanging out in the HF Room working the RAC radio contest on 15m…. Mike W7MKE (desk) & Gary WG7X

Randy WB4SPB (as W7OS) works a POTA station on 14.050 CW on the W7OS museum's Hallicrafters SX-111 RCVR and Knight Kit T-60 XMTR—in CW QSO with POTA station W9FMI

Dick W1UG talks about his ATX power breakout board for a computer supply—for details, see the blurb elsewhere in this issue

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

"The Gang's All Here in the Lou Room"

Bark Editor Dave W7UUU banging away on four screens of Logger's Bark materials—always pushing to get the next issue out in time (without typos!)

Nolan K7GBM manning one of the club's mini-swap tables (not really – he was just hanging out! ☺ *)*

Chef Paul W7PFU turns out his famous chilidogs every "last Saturday" - free of charge for all! (But donations are a nice way to help the club!)

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Warren NG7G hanging out in the Lou Room

Jessica KK7VHH always with a smile for those she meets up with in the clubhouse

The club was donated a vintage Midland 13-885 SSB CB transceiver—not exactly a ham rig for sure, but may be converted for 10m—Bob K7MXE shows it off!

Always happy faces in the Lou Room—here is Bob K7MXE (left) and Stephen AD7AB

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

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AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Doug AB7DG (left) shares a laugh over coffee with Mike W7XTZ

Bob K7MXE (left) and Red WB7EC hanging out in the W7DK clubhouse kitchen

Loop expert Nolan K7GBM (left) made this fine loop antenna for Joe KF7PXB and gifted it to him at the clubhouse on January 4th. Very cool of you, Nolan!

Mike W7MKE gets the IC-7610 ready to roll while club Secretary Gary WG7X looks on

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU except as noted

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AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

David AC7KP hanging out at a recent mini-Swapmeet Saturday

Nelson K7CX stopped by the clubhouse for a visit

Chef Paul W7PFU mugs for the camera

Doug AB7DG is deep in study on the features of the club's Icom IC-7610 transceiver in the HF Room

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

February Birthdays!!

Rad Galyautdinov	AA7DA
Doug Oakman	AD7AV
Dale Skylingstad	AH6ET
Raphael Zvetkoff	AI7RB
George Salisbury	K7GRS
John Wheeler	KA7RMG
Carl Rosevear	KB7LIG
Michael Stark	KB8KB
Pam Terjeson	KC7AZV
Jennifer Johnson	KC7YYZ
Joe Pavia	KD7LJ
Wayne Gilham	KD7VWM
Mike Campbell	KE7JAS
Bob Garden	KF7GPO
Paul Pettinger	KG7FTN
David Jerauld	KJ7AKG
Larry Shank	KT7WTF
Chris Maher	N7CPM
Mark Terjeson	N7FIT
John Thomas	N7JFM
Sam Mulvey	N9MII
David Riley	W7BAD
Paul Matney	W7PFU
John Arbaugh	W7PUY
Rachet Eaton	W7SFO
Perry Angiono	WB7NIL
Shay Winget	WI7NGS

Walt WA7SDY is a frequent seller in the Clubhouse for Last Saturday Mini-Swap—December 28, 2024

Nolan K7GBM always with his cheery smile

photos by Dave W7UUU

MOST EVERY THURSDAY EVENING from 6PM until 9PM, the Radio Club of Tacoma opens the HF room for one-on-one training time. Saturdays are a great time to come see the clubhouse and socialize, but often it's tough to get "quality time" with the radios. This weekly event is open to all—members and non-members alike. There is always at least one Extra Class operator on hand with a solid knowledge of the Icom and Flex radios in use, as well as the antenna patch bay, amplifiers, and tuners. Even non-licensed "hams to be" can take a hand operating under the tutelage and watchful eye of an experienced "Elmer" on hand to show the ropes. Come on by any Thursday! ■ *-editor*

Scott KF7ZFL works the Icom IC-7610 station while David AC7KP looks on, awaiting his turn at the rig

Congrats to Julie on her new call sign, W7JUL! I like it! Original call was KK7VHG

Mike W7MKE logs while Julie W7JUL works 40m SSB on the Flex 6600 rig

All photos this page provided by Gary WG7X

CLUB ACTIVITIES

4th Thursday HF Night

David AC7KP, Julie W7JUL, and Jeff W7NGS on a recent Thursday "HF Night" at the clubhouse
Photo by Mike W7MKE

Brad KK7YQC making his firs HF contact on a recent Thursday HF night at the clubhouse! Awesome!
Photo by Julie W7JUL

Mike W7MKE, Chisten KK7YQI, and Leah K7IPT on HF Night
Photo by Julie W7JUL

Open House Reminder!

THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click HERE for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs "shack parlor" we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul W7PFU serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ *-editor*

Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL? Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul W7PFU cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. ■ *-editor*

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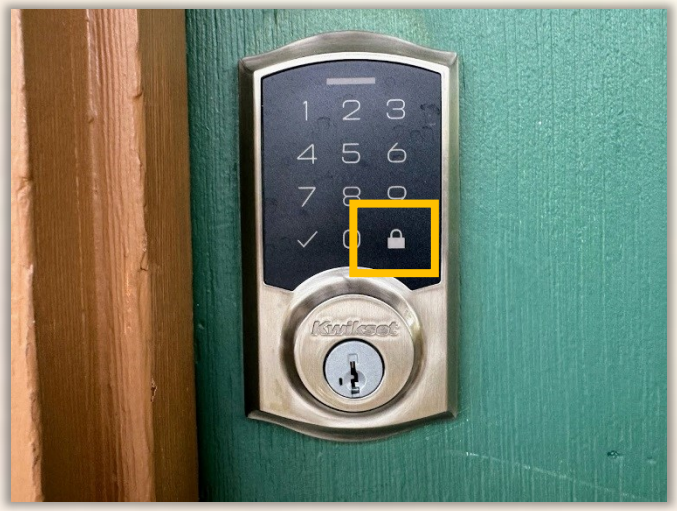
How To Lock The Doors

AS WAS REPORTED in a recent *Loggers Bark* by our club Secretary, Gary WG7X, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol" button. The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (*you won't be able to get back in without the code!).* This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

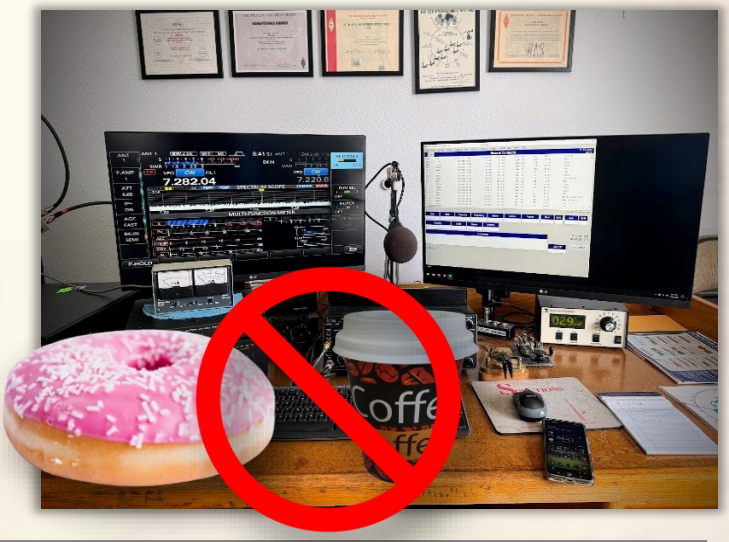
-Dave W7UUU

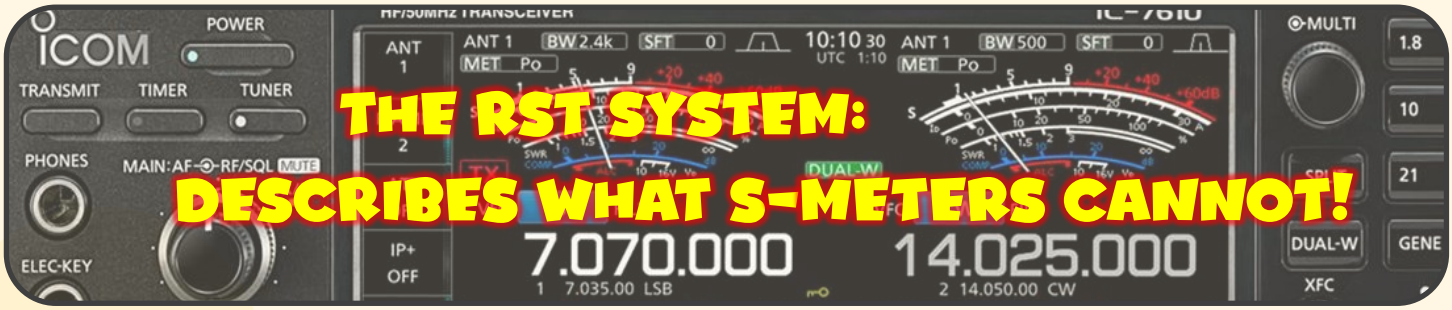


Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups… we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!





THE RST SYSTEM: DESCRIBES WHAT S-METERS CANNOT!

LONG BEFORE RADIOS HAD AN S-METER, hams were still fully able to give reasonably accurate signal reports over the air. And not just **S** for "Signal Strength" but also report on how readable the signal is, and if there are any tonal anomalies in a received CW signal. How did they do all of this? With a very simple-to-use system called RST: "Readability, Strength, and Tone".

The RST system is every bit as applicable and useful today as it was when it was first created. Of course, hams had been reporting signal strengths and levels of readability since the beginning of radio communication. Initially, there was simply the Q-code QSA: "How is my signal strength?" which also wrapped in an assumed factor of readability. The scale had 5 numbers, from low signal to high, so a report of QSA5 would be sent as an indication that "I receive you perfectly".

The tradition evolved to where if a signal were considered readable, the operators would simply exchange "QSA" and the 4 or 5 would be assumed. "VY QSA OM" - "very solid copy, old man!". Or simply, "You're very QSA here" on AM phone.

However, QRN (natural noise) and QRM (interference from other operators) can very easily make a QSA5 signal be much less readable. There was only an accounting for strength without any reference to the readability of the signal, whether it be voice or CW. How can an operator convey "You're really strong here but I'm not copying much of it due to really bad interference and static".

In the June 1925 issue of QST, the "R" code was first introduced that was intended to clarify signal strength versus readability. The Q-code QRK was used in conjunction with QSA for a combined report such as "QSA5 QRK5 OM".

But that system was cumbersome, and did not address another common issue with early CW transmissions: the tone quality of the CW note. It wasn't uncommon for a lot of residual 60-cycle AC powerline hum to modulate the signal and was yet another factor that could downgrade the **R** of readability.

By 1934, hams were starting to seek a more codified way of characterizing each other's signals. In the October 1934 issue of QST Magazine, Arthur M. Bratten W2BSR of Riverhead, New York published an article entitled, "A New Standard of Reporting Signals" with the subtitle being "Use the R-S-T System!"

He based his idea on a system that had been created by RCA (Radio Corporation of America) in 1926 for rating broadcast station signals called "**FRAME**" with the letters meaning: **F**requency, **R**elative strength, **A**mplitude variation, **M**usicality of note, and **E**stimated readability. Of course, this wasn't directly usable for radio amateurs but could certainly be adapted.

The original RST system W2BSR came up with was slightly different than that which we use today, but the format is still virtually identical. The ratings are based solely on user interpretation. **Braaten defined them in 1934 as follows:**

Readability (R):

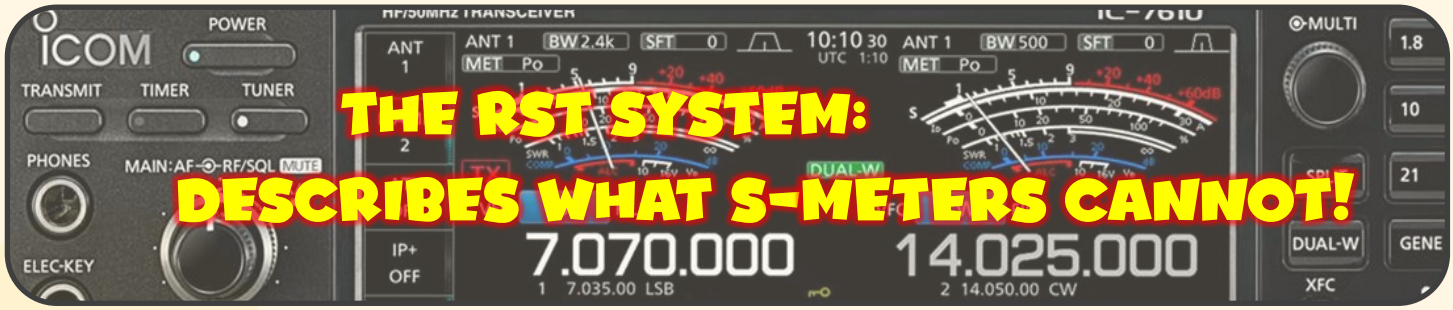
1. Unreadable
2. Barely readable—occasional words distinguishable
3. Readable with considerable difficulty
4. Readable with practically no difficulty
5. Perfectly readable

Signal Strength (S):

1. Faint—signals barely perceptible
2. Weak signals
3. Fairly good signals
4. Good signals
5. Very strong signals

Tone (T) for CW use only:

1. Extremely rough, hissing note
2. Very rough AC note—no trace of musicality
3. Rough, low-pitched AC note—slightly musical
4. Rather rough AC note—moderately musical
5. Musically modulated note
6. Modulated note—slight trace of whistle
7. Near DC note—smooth ripple
8. Good DC note—just a trace of ripple
9. Purest DC note. Add "X" if it sounds XTAL control



THE RST SYSTEM: DESCRIBES WHAT S-METERS CANNOT!

It's interesting to note that the original RST system only allowed for five gradations of signal strength but there are *nine* for tone! This is a clear message that early transmitter builds by radio amateurs were very prone to having an AC power line hum component on the CW note.

Braaten's system was very quickly adopted by amateurs world-wide. In addition to the **X** for "a CW note that is so solid it sounds like a crystal-controlled signal", other letters were added—some commonly used, some not so much. **C** after the RST refers to chirp which is an unstable frequency shift common in old tube transmitters (especially the really simple ones that use just one or two tubes). **F** was sometimes used in place of the Q-code QSB to denote fading of a signal. **P** stood for phase distortion, and where a CW note would exhibit a noticeable warbling in the tone. But of these, all I have ever heard in 49 years of operating CW has been **C** for chirp (or clicks).

RST ratings are still very relevant today, and in many cases are much more informative than simply reporting what an S-meter in a receiver is indicating. Many factors can affect the values the meter displays: where the RF gain control is set, the background noise level, the filters being used, and even the band in use. It's not at all uncommon to have a fully readable signal on 6-meters report as a zero or one on the transceiver's S-meter. It's far more usable to the other operator to receive an S-report based on RST than simply telling him he has an R of 5 with an S of zero or one! You simply use your own ears to report what is a more honest, albeit more subjective report. Over the years I have given a "five by nine" report to a phone (SSB or AM) station on that's barely budging the S-meter.

In this modern era, the **T**– value for tone has largely become obsolete simply because the vast majority of modern HF transmitters on the air have absolutely pure "DC tones" when using CW. Of course, those running the old tube rigs can still exhibit a hint of AC hum that might warrant a **T**-report of 5 to 8.

Additionally, the modern RST system has expanded from the original five levels of strength reporting to a more detailed nine levels. What follows is how the RST system is defined today.

Modern RST definitions

Readability (R):

1. Unreadable
2. Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
3. Readable with considerable difficulty
4. Readable with practically no difficulty
5. Perfectly readable

Strength (S):

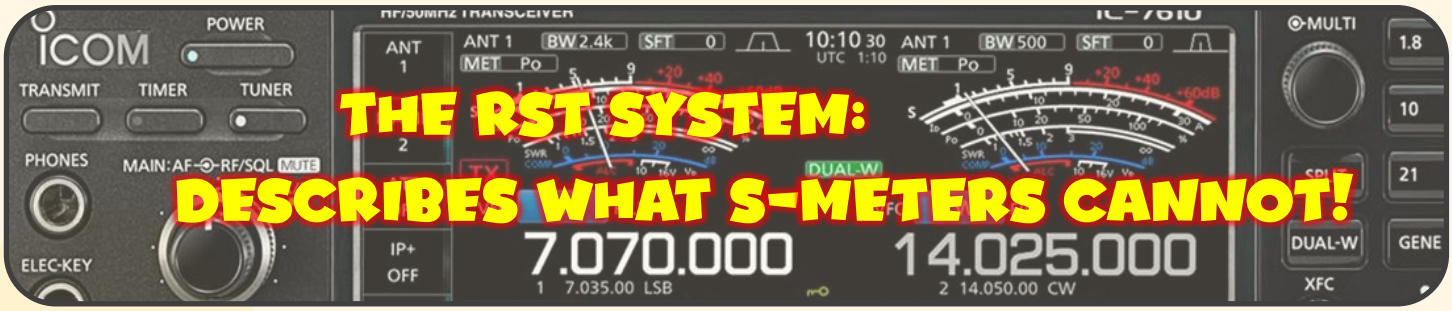
1. Faint—signals barely perceptible
2. Very weak signals
3. Weak signals
4. Fair signals
5. Fairly good signals
6. Good signals
7. Moderately strong signals
8. Strong signals
9. Extremely strong signals
Many modern hams will append a dB level for signals that greatly exceed S9 i.e., "20 dB over 9"

Tone (T):

1. 60 cycle AC noise, very rough and broad
2. Very rough AC, very harsh and broad
3. Rough AC tone, rectified but not filtered
4. Rough note, some trace of filtering
5. Filtered rectified AC but strong ripple modulation
6. Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
7. Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
8. Near perfect tone, slight trace of ripple modulation
9. Perfect tone, no trace of ripple of any kind

Suffixes:

A—Signal distorted by auroral propagation
C—Chirp—frequency shift when keying
D—Drift—frequency wandering
M—Signal distorted by multipath propagation
S—Signal distorted by scatter propagation
X—Very stable frequency as if by crystal control



THE RST SYSTEM: DESCRIBES WHAT S-METERS CANNOT!

Reading through the modern (or even the original 1936) table of RST options, it's pretty plain to see this is a fairly nuanced system of reporting signals! I would have to wonder how often the **T** scale gets employed—in either system—below a T8. I recently worked a station on 40m CW that I reported a signal of 576 because of a heavy AC hum on his CW note. That is honestly the first time in all my years as a ham for reporting a signal like that! The **T** scale really should be reduced to maybe 3 levels: 1=AC hum is really bad, 2=AC is present but not terrible, and 3=CW tone is perfect. Or in keeping with the 599 paradigm, make it be 7, 8 and 9 and just do away with all **T**-numbers below 7.

Many hams today seem to obsess over the S-meter in their modern radio. I regularly hear comments such as, "I didn't note your signal level on the first transmission but I'll take a look next time and give you a report". But is that *really* all that meaningful? CW and SSB are not like FT8, which has a "computer precision" to the whole process, and logically renders and reports absolutely precise dB readings for every stage of the QSO. CW and SSB are not like that! Nuance matters.

It's important to observe that there is no "meter" in any modern (or past!) radio that can render the number for **R** - readability. And isn't that, after all, the *most important* number of the three—the ability to COPY the signal heard, whether using CW, or phone?

Readability is the ultimate goal of any QSO. If both parties cannot copy each other, for whatever reason, the readability is going to be very low, or even zero. On CW and SSB, readability can be greatly reduced by factors such as QRN, QRM, or simply the fact the other party can't speak well or sends horrible Morse! He might very well be a 9 on **S** and a 9 on **T** but his sending is so poor that his **R** reading cannot possibly be better than a 3 or 4. And that's the part that counts.

But receivers will never have an **R** meter. That metric only exists between our own ears. And many, many factors affect what **R** ends up being. The only reason the S-meter was ever developed is simply because "incoming signal strength can be measured", whereas **R** cannot possibly be equally measured.

I encourage all hams to take some time and *really learn* the "RST System" and start reporting your signal reports in QSOs in ways that your S-meter cannot *begin* to do.

-Dave W7UUU

A New Standard System of Reporting Signals

Use the R-S-T System!

By Arthur M. Braaten, W2BSR*

Most amateurs will agree fully with the author, after examining the reporting practices that have grown upon amateur radio, that it is high time for an improvement. In August QST KA1NA emphasized the need for change in our signal-report practice. We think W2BSR's R-S-T system answers a very definite need. In it we find no such glaring inconsistencies as in existing usages.

How about adopting the R-S-T system as A.R.R.L. standard practice? Put it into use in your station operation at once, just as explained herein. Talk up the new R-S-T reporting practice over the air. You and all amateurs will benefit. Logical and brief, you will find R-S-T increasingly satisfying as you keep using it. W1MK will use the R-S-T form effective September 27th.

—COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Title page of Arthur Braaten's original RST reporting system as published in QST October 1934 p.17 ©ARRL, Inc.

GENERAL MEETING

Eagles Aerie #2933 South Tacoma

L>R: New VP, Manny AD7MA, New President Adam, W2NCC and Club Secretary Gary WG7X—first meeting of 2025

New members Jiro Oi KW6A (center) and wife Karen Oi K4KOI joined us for this first General Meeting of the new year

Program presenter Scott Honaker N7SS, Chairman of the Western Washington Amateur Relay Association (WWARA) gave a very detailed and excellent talk on the upcoming changes to amateur repeaters to move from wideband to narrowband for both analog and digital communications

Another recent member Nelson Hauke K7CX had lots of great questions for our presenter Scott N7SS

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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Nick K7MO with his lovely bride Anna K7ANA were able to join us for this first meeting of the new year

Visitors Frank Hero KC1PIU (left, standing) and friend Ross VanDeen W7ROV (right) traveled in to see what our meetings are all about—thanks guys for joining us!

Chuck AC7QN stopped in to see the program and catch up with fellow DK members

David AC7KP (left) and Chef Paul W7PFU hanging out waiting for the meeting to get rolling

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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email loggersbark@gmail.com

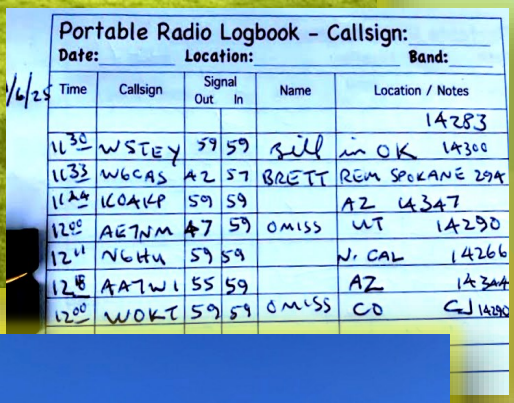
STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

W7XTZ Portable Ops on Orcas Island

W7UUU

A BEAUTIFUL EARLY JANUARY MORNING greeted member Mike W7XTZ celebrating the new year on "the family farm" on Orcas Island in the NW corner of Puget Sound. His rig was an Icom IC-706MKIIG running 100 watts to an inverted-V multiband dipole. ■ *-editor*

Orcas Island



Portable Radio Logbook - Callsign:
Date: Location: Band:

Time	Callsign	Signal Out	Signal In	Name	Location / Notes
					14283
1630	WSTEY	59	59	Bill	in OK 14300
1633	W6CAS	42	57	BRETT	REM SPOKANE 294
1644	KC0AKP	59	59		AZ 14347
1700	AE7NM	47	59	OMISS	UT 14290
1711	N6HU	59	59		N. CAL 14266
1718	AA7WI	55	59		AZ 14344
1700	WOKT	59	59	OMISS	CO CW 14290

Lopez Island

Photos by Mike W7XTZ

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THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Editor

Archive Photo

Nick Winter WA7IVO (now K7MO) at Field Day with Bob Weightman WA7IPR in the dashing 1920s-reproduction boater's hat that was a trademark of the Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfair participants back in the day. (Nick must have left his hat in the dressing room!)

 © Radio Club of Tacoma, W7DK

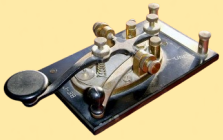
RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"… that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write articles*. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but NEVER is the text… we *don't allow any* AI written article submissions ■ *-editor*

Last month's Hidden Object:



On Page 86, in the W7DK 1970 Ham Fair photo, between the boys on the right side of the photo

Last Month's Hidden Word: graphite

It was hidden on page 88 of the Ham Tech column. See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some W7DK & QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!

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WA7BNM CONTEST CALENDAR

Contest events for the coming month

HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM for publishing his "Contest Calendar" for all these many years… a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the specifics of every upcoming event. For now, here's the WA7BNM Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.

February 2025	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1200Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
European Union DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 1 to 1200Z, Feb 2
FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z, Feb 1 to 1900Z, Feb 2
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0359Z, Feb 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 4
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 8 to 2359Z, Feb 9
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 8
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 8 to 2359Z, Feb 9
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 8 to 1200Z, Feb 9
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 8 to 1200Z, Feb 9
CQC Winter QSO Party	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 9
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 10
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 14
PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 15 to 2359Z, Feb 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Feb 16 to 0100Z, Feb 17
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 19
NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 20
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21 to 2200Z, Feb 23
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 22 to 1800Z, Feb 23
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 22 to 1300Z, Feb 23
South Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 22 to 0159Z, Feb 23
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23
High Speed Club CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Feb 23
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0100Z, Feb 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 26

Click Calendar to visit online

WA7BNM Contest Calendar data used with permission

Background Image Source LINK

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email loggersbark@gmail.com

THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?

YOU! YES *YOU!* Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS: If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

ELMER ("MENTOR") BOARD

Do you need help with some area of ham radio?

List of members' areas of interest:

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Morse Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station Planning
5. Antenna and Tower Erection
6. Buying Equipment (new or used)
7. Equipment Repair
8. Understanding and Using Your Gear
9. DXing and Contests
10. Club and ARRL Activities
11. Using Test Equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, APRS, WinLink, etc.
13. Basics of Electronics—how things work

Current as of January 2025

Name/Call Sign/Phone Number/Topic:

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4, 5, 6, 7, 11)
Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1, 2, 4, 6, 8)
Dave W7UUU (253-820-0890 (2, 4, 6, 9)
Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10, 12)
Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6, 8, 10)
Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1, 3, 4, 12)
Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9, 10, 12)

Are you an RCT member with skills to offer?

Please let any officer know and we can add you!

Note: *Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!*

HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small

PROJECT PROFILE

IN THE MAY 2024 ISSUE OF *THE LOGGER'S BARK*, I covered the building of the QRP Kits Easy Transmitter kit. It's a very fun build and the transmitter works great! I get about 2 watts output on 40 meters but can easily make contacts without any issue. I have since sourced a nice supply of small crystals so that I can cover a good swath of the 40m CW band.

This month I took on the building of the companion receiver, called logically enough, the Easy Receiver. Its design is a very simple direct coverage circuit based on the popular NE602 mixer chip. It's available only for the 40-meter band, and is intended to be a companion to the Easy Transmitter.

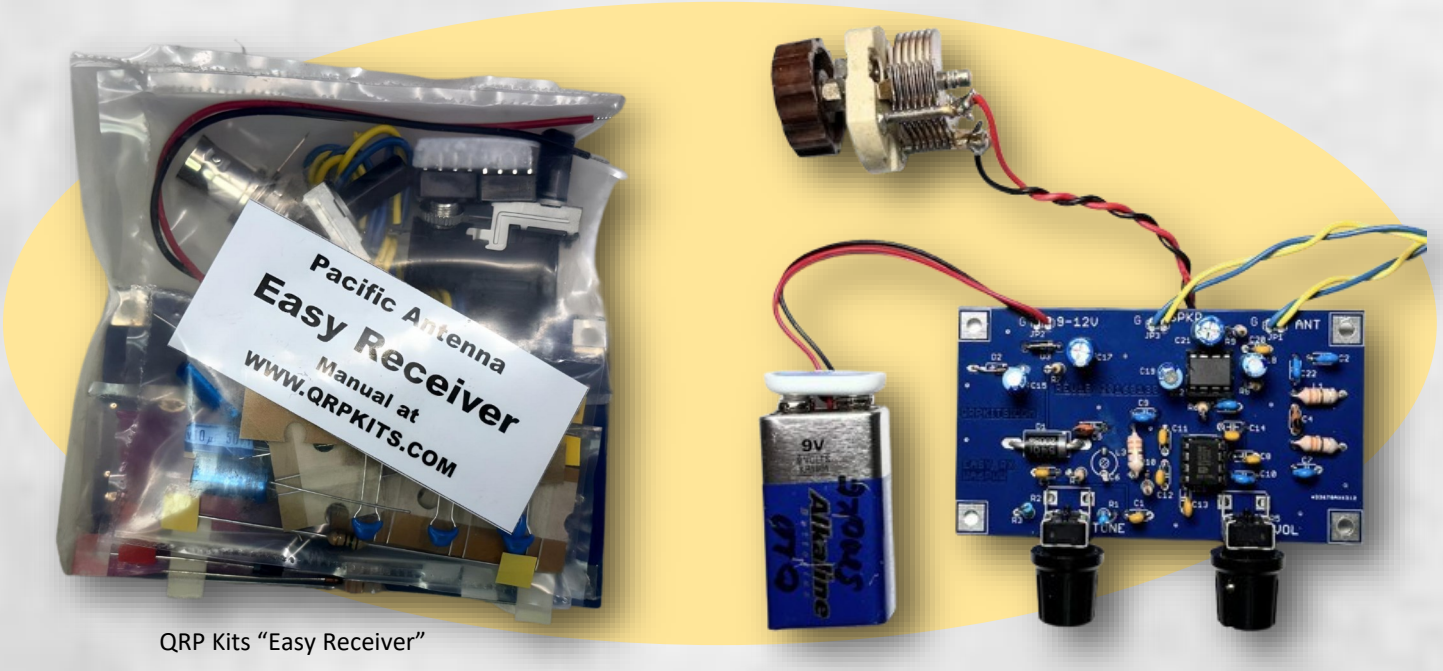
As with other QRP Kits (Pacific Antenna) products I've built, the instructions are very clear and well laid-out, and the assembly couldn't be easier. This receiver uses no surface-mount devices (SMDs) and the PC board is very roomy to work with even if you have big hands. Also, there are no toroids to wind! The three inductors are all 3.3uH molded body types that simply insert just like a resistor. You can't even get them mixed up—they are all the same value!

There are two factors in tuning the receiver, as is typically the case in most any receiver of this design using an NE602 mixer chip. In the Easy Receiver, coil L3 and variable capacitor C6 determine the overall tuning range of the receiver, while a 10k linear potentiometer, R2, acts as the fine tuning control for the NE602 by adjusting the internal oscillation frequency of the mixer chip's Hartley oscillator. Capacitor C6 becomes essentially the "band set" control, and allows the receiver to cover any 75 KHz section of the 40-meter band.

The second integrated circuit on the PC board is simply an LM386 audio amplifier which can deliver about 3/4 of a watt to an external 8-Ohm speaker.

Assembly of the Easy Receiver was really easy! It took about an hour and a half total time, from when I cut the bag of parts open to having the receiver on the air. But I've built many projects and kits over the years. A less-experienced builder may need to plan for extra time—perhaps build it in a couple of sessions. There's no rush—enjoy the build!

One thing I can strongly recommend for most any builder is a powerful optical magnifier of some sort. I use a head-worn dual-lens magnifier that has several lenses I can swap out to get the best power. The reason for this is because of the microscopic writing on the parts—mostly the molded capacitors.



QRP Kits "Easy Receiver"

HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small

It's virtually impossible to read the writing on many of them with the unaided eye. Some were so hard to read I needed to swap out to the most powerful lens. I always like to use my Peak LCR40 automatic passive component analyzer to test each and every component before installing. It's a nice reassurance that you not only read the value correctly, but that the component tests as "OK" and confirms the value. But in this case, all of the parts were spot on anyway, so the LCR40 wasn't really necessary.

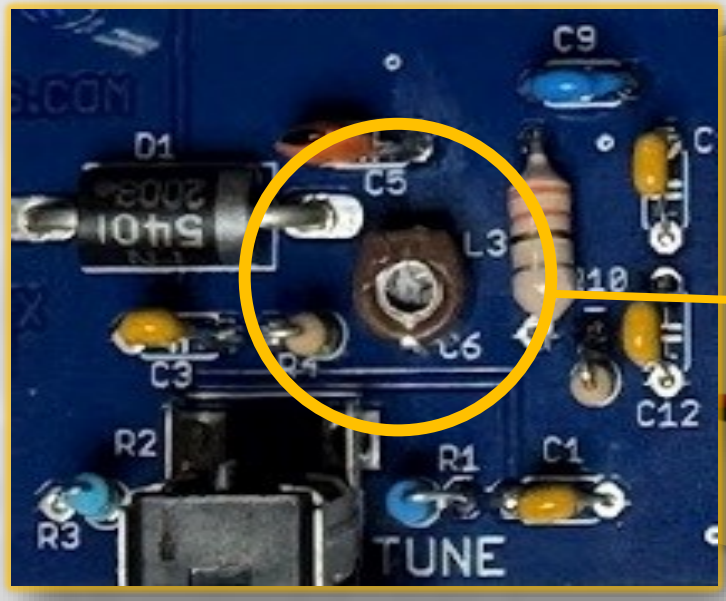
It's always nice to build up a kit and have it work just as you hope when it's all done! And with the Easy Receiver, I wasn't disappointed. I popped a 9v battery on the connector clip, a small speaker on the associated pigtails, and grabbed an SO-239 to BNC adapter to connect the coax. I switched the antenna to the 40-meter band, and immediately heard signals! LOTS of signals! There was a RTTY contest going on, and the band was packed with signals. Interspersed with the teletype diddles were plenty of strong CW signals as well.

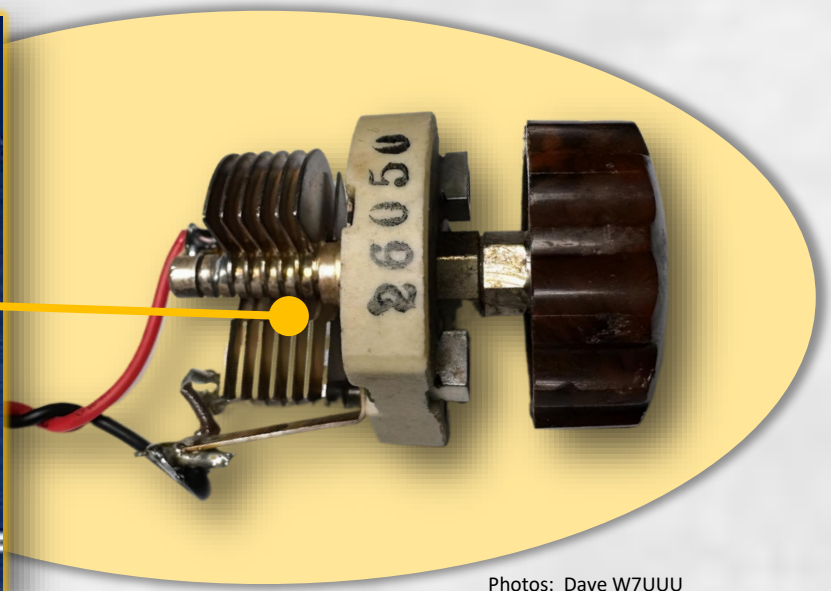
I adjusted C6, the band-set trimmer capacitor, and now I was hearing loud and clear AM shortwave broadcasts from China, as well as loud single-sideband signals.

I was quite impressed with how well this little board "hears the world" on 40 meters.

But it became *very* clear early on in my testing that the Band-Set trimmer was just not going to work for my application. It's very tiny, and very imprecise by most any measure. It's virtually impossible to return to the same band segment reliably after tuning it to a different segment.

So what you see in the photo at the bottom of this page is my solution: I removed the little trimmer cap (it did not survive removal—it's a pretty delicate part) and replaced it with a 50 pF ceramic variable capacitor I found recently on the "Free Table" at the clubhouse. In testing, the replacement cap is vastly better (as I would certainly expect!). I do not in any way fault QRP Kits for any of this however. It's astounding to me they can sell this kit for only $25 and have it work as well as it does! Kudos to them. And frankly, if I were just going to use it for CW, the original C6 trimmer would have been absolutely fine to set it to a suitable coverage range and be fine just as it was.





Photos: Dave W7UUU

Inset: *The supplied band-set trimmer capacitor, while adequate, is very touchy and is more of a "set and forget". But I wanted to be able to listen to a larger range of the 40m band so removed C6 and replaced it with an air variable of the same value.*

HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small

Next steps are to plan a frame to mount the receiver. I'm not wanting to build a cabinet, but rather just a simple breadboard sort of layout where the Easy Receiver can live adjacent the Easy Transmitter. I will mount the new C6 capacitor on a metal plate with a vernier dial, to make band setting more stable. Likewise, the linear 10k tuning pot will be replaced with a 10-turn precision unit for much better bandspread control.

As laid out in the original article from April of last year, I will follow this kit with the Audio Band Pass Filter kit, also from QRP Kits, that will afford a little bit of improved receiver selectivity. After that will come the Easy TR Switch (Transmit Receive) to allow the two boards to automatically switch between the two modes. Lastly, I will build the Simple Keyer kit to pair with the Easy Transmitter. Topping it all off will be the addition of a regulated AC power supply to power all of the various boards (and hopefully avoid AC hum coupling into the receiver which is always a challenge with a direct-conversion design).

Of course, the final operational breadboard layout of all of these kits "will not an FTDX-101 replace"! It will be an extremely basic, single-band crystal-controlled transmitter running merely 2 watts, with a touchy direct conversion receiver that lacks selectivity…

But one of the most fun aspects of this hobby throughout my life as a ham has been setting up fun self-challenges. And this project is no different! I have a very effective antenna for the 40m band (SteppIR DB18E Yagi) and have set the lofty goal of seeing how long it will take to accomplish 100 QSOs in as short a time as possible, and how many states I can rack up in the process! Only time will tell.

See you on 40m CW one evening soon! *-Dave W7UUU*

Easy Receiver
by
QRPKits.com

Pacific Antenna
Affordable QRP Antennas and Kits at exceptional value

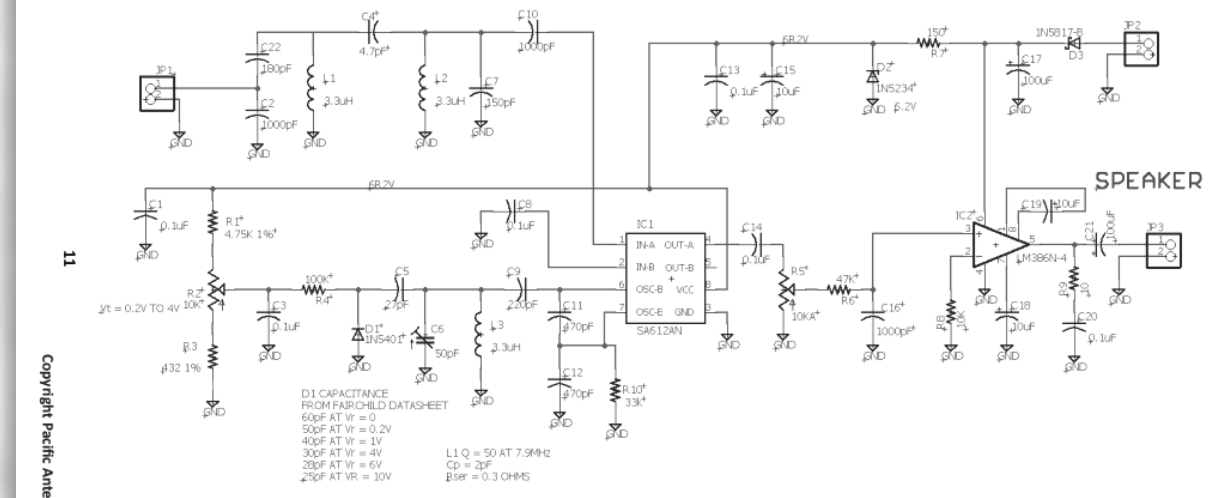


Photo on this page & schematic ©Pacific Antenna

COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

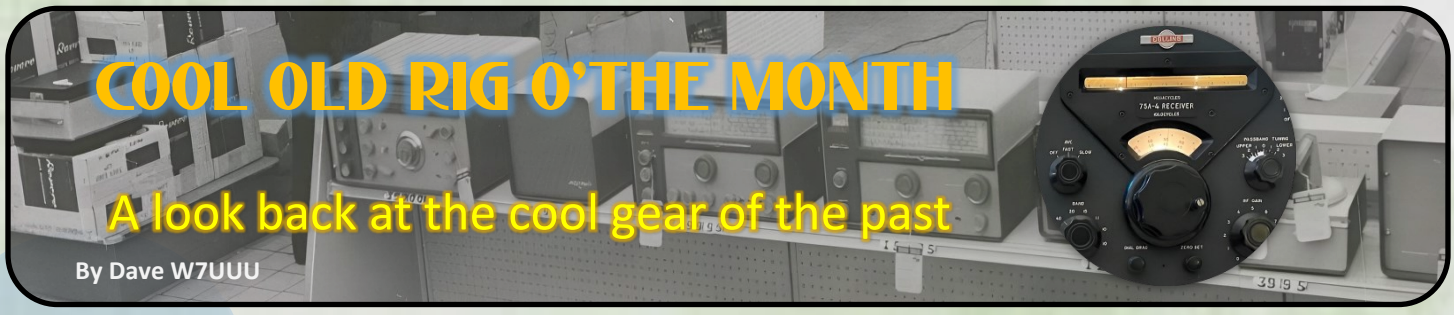
ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC TRANSCEIVERS in amateur radio from the past is the Heathkit SB-101 (and its nearly identical-looking predecessor the SB-100). The SB-100 was introduced by the Heath Company in 1965 and was an immediate hit. It came out right before Christmas that year, and was a mega-seller for Heath right from the beginning. Almost immediately the engineers began designing its successor which would become the SB-101 (which was then followed by the less-popular of the series, the SB-102). In the late 1960s into the early 1970s the "Sugar Baker" rigs were one of the most often heard HF radios on the air at the time.

Heathkit SB-101 HF transceiver with SB-600 speaker (contains the HP-23 AC power supply for the radio), and HDP-121 microphone (Heathkit branded Electro Voice model 619). This beautiful rig was lost in my 2020 fire –photo by Dave W7UUU

Part of their enormous appeal was the styling. The appearance was designed by Heath engineer Stu Sizer, which was clearly aimed to be strongly reminiscent of the much more expensive Collins KWM-2 transceiver and the Collins S-Line transmitters and receivers.

But the SB-101 was priced significantly below the cost of any rig from Collins (the SB-100 debuted at $360, and the SB-101 at $370 vs. $1,095 for the KWM-2, and over $1,500 for the S-Line). Of course, the SB rigs were kit-built, not preassembled. But that was in fact one of the big draws for the Heathkit alternatives—the ham who built it would feel that pride of ownership of a state-of-the-art transceiver that he had built with his own two hands. That was a powerful selling point for a great many of the Heath Company's products.

The SB-101 offered all the features any serious ham would want during those years it was sold: 100 watts output on the five "original" ham bands 80-10 meters (this was long before the WARC bands). Modes were SSB and CW, with features to make both modes a pleasure to use: VOX operation available for SSB, and a switchable 500 Hz CW filter for the Morse ops out there. A complete suite of accessories were offered as well: SB-600 matching speaker that could also contain the required HP-23 AC power supply; SB-610 station monitor scope to view your outgoing waveforms; SB-620 panadapter to view 500 KHz of the band in use (a



COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

very early predecessor of today's waterfall function); SB-630 station console with a mechanical digital clock, SWR and wattmeter, as well as a phone patch and 10-minute "identification reminder" timer; SB-640 remote VFO to enable working split operation; and the somewhat rare SB-650 digital display adapter (the analog dial was plenty accurate for the time, and the SB-650 cost almost as much as the transceiver—not that many were ever sold).

WB7AWK (now W7UUU) at the mic at my SB-101 transceiver as described in this article. Photo by Doc Spike, W7OS, who always placed his QSL card in photos of members. I had worked him a few months earlier, and he brought the QSL to my house when he came to take the picture. Doc then had fried chicken dinner with me and my family, regaling us with old-time radio stories! He was a good friend.

As a young Novice in 1975, I saw a lot of Heathkit stations in ham shacks I visited and worked a ton on the air! I truly pined for one myself—despite the fact that by that time, the SB-102 successor was on its way out. Of course, I was 14 then so it might as well have been a new Ferrari for all I was concerned! I had no option to buy and build one of my own. Or even buy a used one.

But then as a surprise in winter of 1976, mom had a work friend whose son was getting out of ham radio reach out to her and offer his complete SB-101 setup for a good price, and she bought it for me as a surprise! And boy was it! I put it on the air in January—or tried to…. but managed to do something wrong, and smoked some parts in the final amplifier section.

I called my new W7DK friend, Nick Winter WA7IVO (now K7MO) and he came to my house that day, opened the rig up and put it on my desk, and set about replacing a resistor that blew and fixing the badly-soldered BNC jack that had caused the problem. Thankfully, nothing much was damaged.

Thanks to Nick, I was back on the air within a few hours, and I went on to work the world on that rig (mostly on CW—I was very mic-shy as a teenager—I didn't start working SSB until many years later, in the mid-1990s)

Collectors today still fawn over the SB-101 (and to a lesser degree the SB-100 and SB-102) and restore them regularly, to put on the air and relive the nostalgia of ham radio in the late 1960s and into the early 70s.

-Dave W7UUU

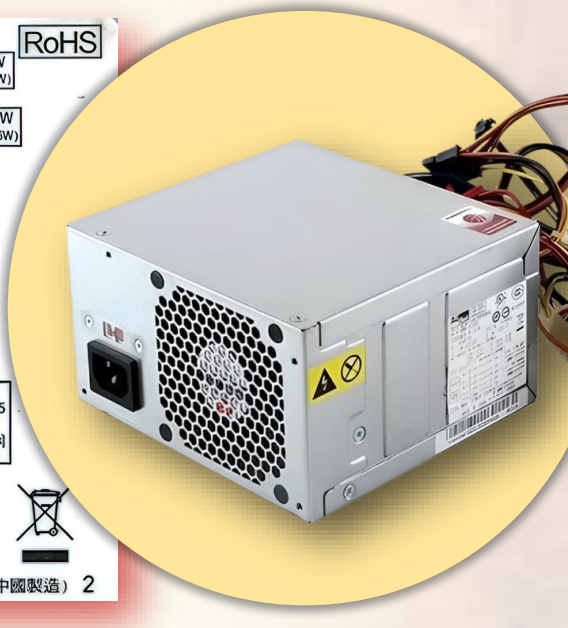
[Thanks Nick—you really saved me as a ham way back then!]

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

So what do all these symbols mean?

Typical DELL Computer Power Supply

W7UUU



Photos: W7UUU

SO WHAT DO ALL THOSE SYMBOLS MEAN?

IF YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE ME, you've probably wondered from time to time what all the many certification stamps mean on a lot of the electronics products we buy today. While working on another article for this issue, and seeing all the stamps and symbols on the back of the Dell 300 watt computer power supply, I decided to take some reactance time and look all of them up! Of course, I'm sure for all the ones I researched for this one supply there are probably 200 more out there to be had! The power supply was made by one of the larger computer power supply manufacturers in China, who build supplies for Dell and other brands... typical of most such manufacturers, selling globally. So now let's sort out what all those cryptic ratings mean...

-Dave W7UUU

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

So what do all these symbols mean?

Typical DELL Computer Power Supply

W7UUU

This symbol shows compliance with Korean electrical safety regulations that are roughly the same as the UL listings of the United States.

This symbol is about as generic as you can get in that it simply is saying "use caution" without any specificity. So—when using a computer supply, use caution!

This is the German TÜV SÜD safety certification mark that is one of the oldest such certifications of safety in the world, dating to 1866. With testing labs in EU as well as the Americas, TÜV SÜD is also one of the largest certification bodies in the world.

This is the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) symbol that is used when a product meets the US as well as the Canadian UL listing standard (E127778). Same as UL but includes Canada

Given this power supply is sold heavily into Taiwan where many computers are built, this is the certification for compliance there, with the R33242 certification rating for safety.

Another generic and pretty obvious symbol: basically saying "electrical hazard—high voltage" so again, when using such a PSU, be careful!

"Restriction of Hazardous Substances" directive from the EU, being free of specific hazardous materials (lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, and two flame retardants). Extra credit: it's pronounced "Row-Haas" - now a de-facto global standard.

One of the only symbols that is pretty universal these days no matter where you live: it simply means "don't toss this in the trash when it dies—please recycle properly in an approved way"

Not terribly obvious, but the object in the middle is supposed to be a screwdriver telling us "no user serviceable parts inside" which for us hams usually means "open it up!"

OK this one I found absolutely *nothing* consistent or believable! If ***you know*** and can ***prove*** to me what it means for a power supply, email me and I will send you some *free* W7DK stickers!

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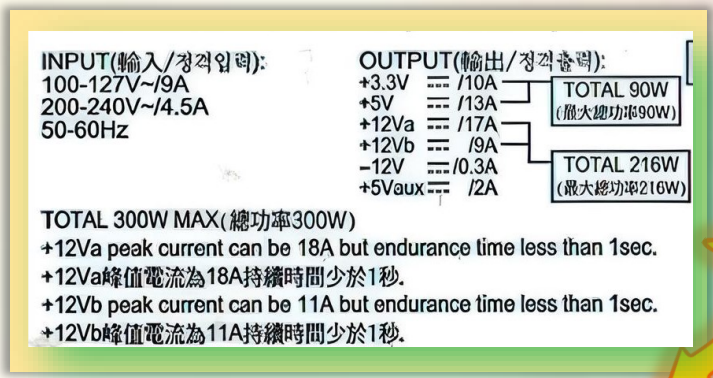
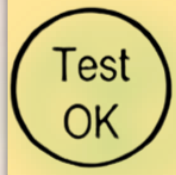
W7UUU



This means the power supply underwent a “burn-in” test where it’s operated at high load for a long period of time to ensure reliability and catch early failures

The grounding of the power supply has been tested and confirmed to be working correctly and providing required safety and protection against faults.

The PSU has passed “High Potential” (high voltage) testing of wire insulation to ensure it can withstand high-voltage electrical stress without the insulation of the wires breaking down.



And shazam! This final stamp means the PSU has passed all functional, operational, and safety tests . This means it’s now OK to ship!

THE IMPORTANT STUFF-THE SPECS

Power Input specs:

- **100-127V~/9A** – The power supply can operate with an input voltage between 100 and 127 volts AC at 9 amps. This is typical for regions like North America and Japan.
- **200-240V~/4.5A** – For regions using higher voltage (such as Europe and Asia), the power supply operates at 200 to 240 volts AC, drawing 4.5 amps.
- **50-60Hz** – The unit can handle both 50 Hz and 60 Hz electrical frequencies, which means it can be used anywhere in the world pretty much

Power Output specs:

- **+3.3V – 10A** – 3.3V rail provides up to 10 amps. Often used to power logic circuits or low-voltage digital components.
- **+5V – 13A** – 5V rail delivers up to 13 amps, typically used for powering hard drives, USB ports, and general components.
- **+12Va – 17A** – 12V rail (Va) supplies up to 17 amps. This is crucial for high-power components like CPUs and GPUs.
- **+12Vb – 9A** – A secondary 12V rail providing up to 9 amps, often for additional components like graphics cards or fans.
- **-12V – 0.3A** – Negative 12V rail with a very low current (0.3A). This is mainly used for legacy hardware or specific analog components.
- **+5Vaux – 2A** – Auxiliary 5V output provides 2 amps, generally used for standby power to keep the system running in low-power modes.

Power Ratings:

- **Total 90W** – The combined power output from the 3.3V and 5V rails is limited to 90 watts. This ensures the power supply isn't overloaded by drawing too much from these lower-voltage rails.
- **Total 216W** – The combined power output from the 12V rails (+12Va and +12Vb) is limited to 216 watts.
- **Total 300W Max** – The overall power supply is capped at 300 watts total, across all outputs.

Peak Current Notes:

- **+12Va peak 18A (for less than 1 second)** – The 12Va rail can temporarily deliver 18 amps for less than a second to handle short bursts of high demand (like startup surges).
- **+12Vb peak 11A (for less than 1 second)** – Similarly, the 12Vb rail can handle 11 amps briefly for short bursts.

-Dave W7UUU

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MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club

EACH MONTH in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Even if you don't yet have your license, control operators are always on hand to show you the ropes and get you on the air—maybe even for the very first time!

■ *-editor*

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

Name	Call	QSOs
Gary	WG7X	36
Phil	K7PIA	19
Mike	W7XH	18
Nathan	KK7QND	11
David	AC7KP	8
Julie	W7JUL	6
Chris	KK7YQI	4
Dave	W7GEL	3
Jon	AI7WP	3
Mike	W7MKE	2
Eman	KK7QLW	2
Jeff	W8NGS	1
Leah	K7IPT	1

Above: HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

Below: HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500

Photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

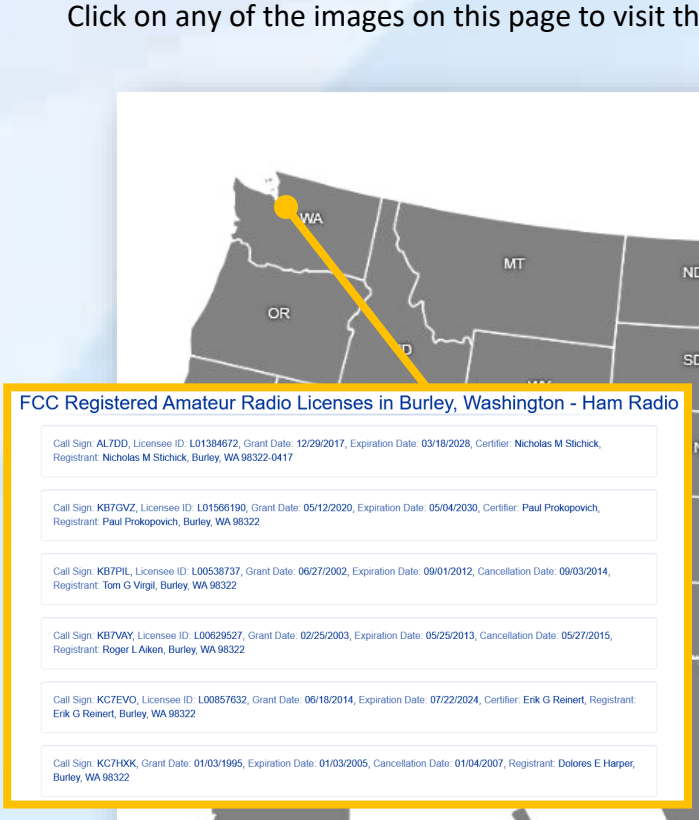
City-Data.com

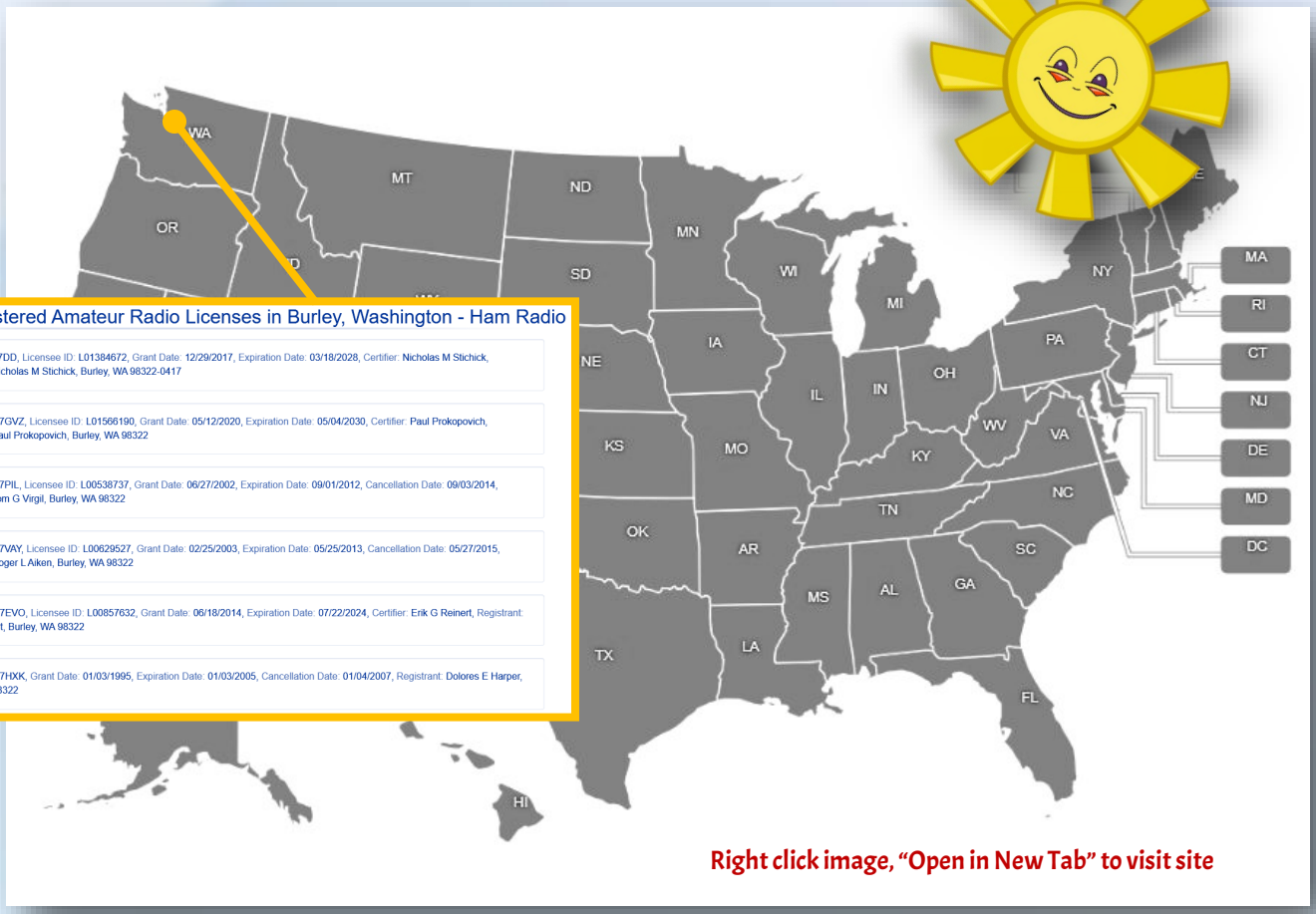
W7UUU

HERE'S A WEBSITE THAT MANY HAMS have likely never heard of but could possibly get a lot of use from: City Data at THIS LINK. The site is aimed at providing all manner of public statistics about virtually any community in the U.S., from information about schools, property assessments, building permits, income and demographic data, you name it. But one of the lesser functions that's not so obvious is the FCC data for radio amateurs!

Click on any of the images on this page to visit the well-hidden Amateur Radio licenses page. It doesn't appear directly in any of the tabs… I found it years ago, and have kept it bookmarked ever since. It's great for clubs to get an idea who all might live in the area of where you meet and possibly find new members. Or just learn about your own ham neighbors! Since it's all publicly available data, it's free and is no more a violation of privacy than the FCC ULS Search system or, for that matter, QRZ.com

-Dave W7UUU


FCC Registered Amateur Radio Licenses in Burley, Washington - Ham Radio
Call Sign: AL7DD, Licensee ID: L01384672, Grant Date: 12/29/2017, Expiration Date: 03/18/2028, Certifier: Nicholas M Stichick, Registrant: Nicholas M Stichick, Burley, WA 98322-0417
Call Sign: KB7GVZ, Licensee ID: L01566190, Grant Date: 05/12/2020, Expiration Date: 05/04/2030, Certifier: Paul Prokopovich, Registrant: Paul Prokopovich, Burley, WA 98322
Call Sign: KB7PIL, Licensee ID: L00538737, Grant Date: 06/27/2002, Expiration Date: 09/01/2012, Cancellation Date: 09/03/2014, Registrant: Tom G Virgil, Burley, WA 98322
Call Sign: KB7VAY, Licensee ID: L00629527, Grant Date: 02/25/2003, Expiration Date: 05/25/2013, Cancellation Date: 05/27/2015, Registrant: Roger L Aiken, Burley, WA 98322
Call Sign: KC7EVO, Licensee ID: L00857632, Grant Date: 06/18/2014, Expiration Date: 07/22/2024, Certifier: Erik G Reinert, Registrant: Erik G Reinert, Burley, WA 98322
Call Sign: KC7HXK, Grant Date: 01/03/1995, Expiration Date: 01/03/2005, Cancellation Date: 01/04/2007, Registrant: Dolores E Harper, Burley, WA 98322



Right click image, "Open in New Tab" to visit site

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THE FUNNY PAPERS

Ham Humor for Humorous Hams

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HOW'S DX?

DXpeditions and Notable DX operations

WEB

NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar

February						
2025 Feb02	2025 Feb28	Senegal	6W7	Club Log OQRS	DXW.Net 20230914	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 80-10m; SSB + digital; QSL via ON4AVT; operation to continue until Apr 10
2025 Feb05	2025 Feb18	Cape Verde Is	D44OA	LoTW	OPDX 20241216	By HB9AOU; 40-10m; CW SSB FT8
2025 Feb08	2025 Feb15	St Helena	ZD7KYD	KY8D	TDDX 20240925	By KY8D; @ZD7CTO; 17-10m; CW; 50w
2025 Feb09	2025 Feb27	Solomon Is	H44MS	DL2GAC	DXW.Net 20241210	By DL2GAC fm Manakwai; 80-6m; SSB FT8; to continue though May 7
2025 Feb11	2025 Feb18	Cocos Keeling	VK9 NEW	LoTW	DXW.Net 20241227	By W5EIT as VK9/W5EIT fm West Island; HF; CW FT8, perhaps RTTY SSB
2025 Feb11	2025 Feb23	Marshall Is	V7	LoTW	TDDX 20240923	By DK6SP DJ4MX HA8RT M0SDV E77DX DK1YH as TBD; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 4 stations; QSL via DJ4MX
2025 Feb12	2025 Feb16	Bahamas	C6ADA	LoTW	425DXN 20241030	By K2KJD K4SGR; HF; CW SSB, some FT8
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 15-16, 2025) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2025 Feb16	2025 Mar04	Sint Martin	PJ7 NEW	LoTW	DXW.Net 20241227	By VA3QSL as PJ7/VA3QSL; 40-6m; SSB CW + digital; 100w; Buddipole
2025 Feb16	2025 Mar04	St Martin	FS NEW	LoTW	DXW.Net 20241227	By VA3QSL as FS/VA3QSL; 40-6m; SSB CW + digital; 100w; Buddipole
2025 Feb18	2025 Mar04	Christmas I	VK9XU	LoTW	DL2AWG 20240911	By DL2AWG DF4GV DL2AMD DJ9RR CK6SJ; HF; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 500w; 3 stations, 24/7; QSL via DL2AWG (LoTW after 6 months)
2025 Feb19	2025 Feb27	St Martin	FS	DF8AN	TDDX 20241031	By DF8AN as FS/DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.

Courtesy Bill Feidt, NG3K
used with permission

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THIS MONTH'S AROUND THE SHOP tip is probably something known by a lot of readers but I'll freely admit it was new to me to see one of these: an ATX Power Supply Breakout Adapter. Super simple—it connects to any ATX style computer power supply and breaks out all of the power supply wires into their voltage pairs. It's a great way to build up a "cheap and easy" low-voltage power supply for workbench experiments and testing.

A typical ATX supply provides standard computer voltages of plus and minus 12 volts, +5v, and +3.3v. Current capacity will of course vary based on how many overall watts the supply is rated. The supply shown in the photos (Dell model B300NM-00) supplies 17 amps and 13 amps on the 12v and 5v outputs respectively, and 10 amps on the 3.3v output.

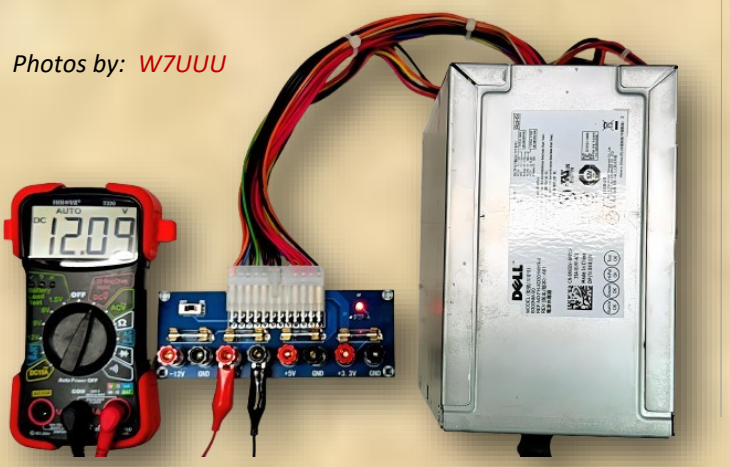
These boards are pretty dirt-cheap these days—if you click on any of the photos, you will see a pair of them listed on Amazon for $9.95 (with free shipping for Prime members)! That's where this one originally came from, given it has the same model and appears identical.

This is a great little "down and dirty" way to get some basic useful voltages, notably the 5v and 12v outputs. 5 volts is required when working with TTL logic chips, and we all know how 12 volts can be very handy around the shack and shop. The *negative* 12v output is great for working with op-amp circuits that require plus and minus 12v to operate in many applications but is very low current—typically 300 mA. The 3.3v output is normally for powering RAM modules and CPU chips in computers—but it's also a convenient voltage for replacing many "button batteries" such as the ubiquitous CR-2032 used in K1EL keyers and many other gizmos.

I'd like to thank Dick W1UG (pictured below) for putting this power supply and breakout board on the "Free Table" last Saturday at the Clubhouse… it's a fun little set-up to work with and I thought maybe there's others out there who've never seen one of these boards.

-Dave W7UUU

Photos by: W7UUU



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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

RADIO ADS FROM 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

ONE OF THE EARLIEST MANUFACTURERS of radio headsets for broadcast listeners, shortwave listeners, and amateur radio operators alike was Tower's Scientific of Boston Massachusetts. Founded by musician Frank S. Tower, the headsets his company produced were highly valued. Various advertisements refer to Tower's Scientific headsets as producing "liquid tones" and were considered to be a better quality build than most of the competing similar products at the time. This first product sold for $2.95 (around $53 in today's money) and launched an electronics company that is still around today. In 1957 the company was bought out and the "new" Tower Manufacturing still makes a wide range of electrical products, most of which relate to ground fault interrupters (GFCI), as well as custom products such as solenoids, motor windings, and thermostats—products that all in one way or another stem from the original headphone products in the sense of relating to coils of wire! It all started with a headset as seen in this 1925 ad. -*Dave W7UUU*

1920s Tower's Scientific radio headset as used by hams.
Photo: Web—used under Fair Use clause

RADIO AGE *for* February, 1925 — *The Magazine of the Hour* — 55

Tower's Scientific $2.95

AIN'T WE GOT FUN!

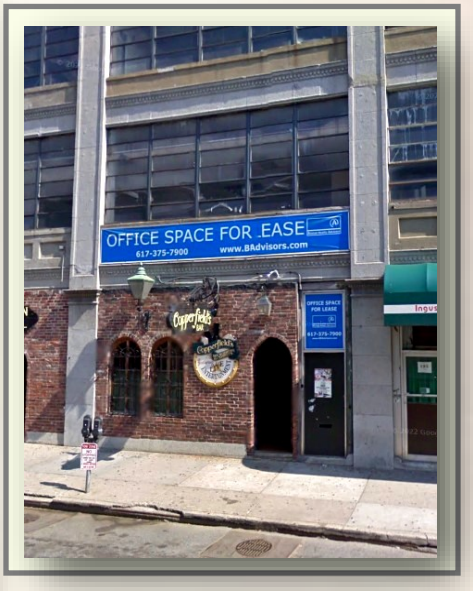
Tower's Scientifics bring joy and happiness into more than a million homes every day. All the quality of phones selling at much higher prices.

Only Government Licensed Radio Operators are allowed to test and approve TOWER'S *Scientific* Headsets, thus guaranteeing uniform tone quality.

If your dealer cannot supply you, order direct by post card, and we will ship immediately Parcel Post, C. O. D., plus a few cents postage.

THE TOWER MFG. CORP.
98 BROOKLINE AVE.
Dept. T BOSTON, MASS.

WORLD'S GREATEST HEADSET VALUE



The bricked in area is where the original Tower's factory was located as it looks today in Boston, MA (Google)

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

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W7UUU

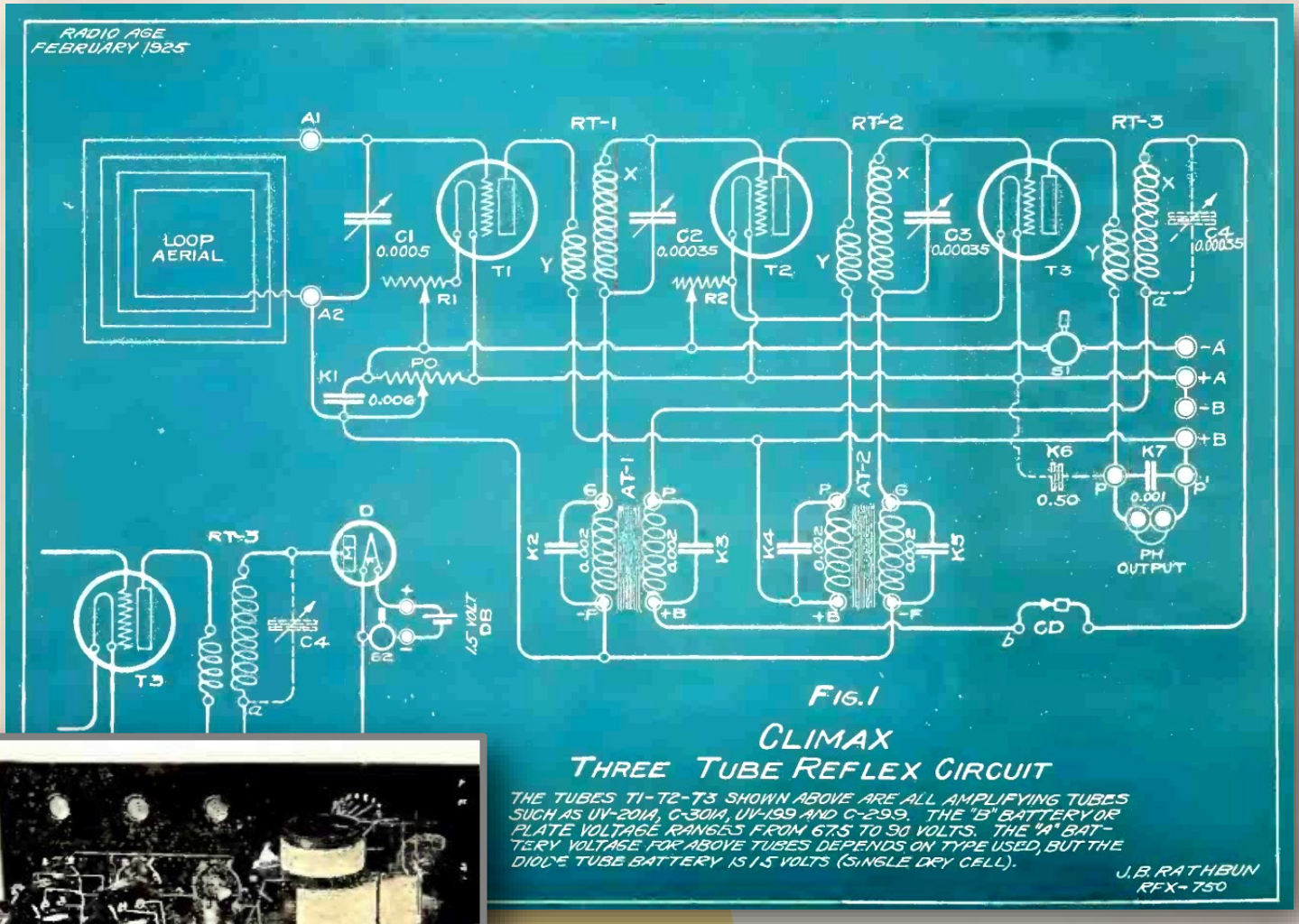

FIG. 1

CLIMAX THREE TUBE REFLEX CIRCUIT

THE TUBES T1-T2-T3 SHOWN ABOVE ARE ALL AMPLIFYING TUBES SUCH AS UV-201A, C-301A, UV-199 AND C-299. THE "B" BATTERY OR PLATE VOLTAGE RANGES FROM 67.5 TO 90 VOLTS. THE "A" BATTERY VOLTAGE FOR ABOVE TUBES DEPENDS ON TYPE USED, BUT THE DIODE TUBE BATTERY IS 1.5 VOLTS (SINGLE DRY CELL).

J.B. RATHBUN RFX-750

COMPLETE PARTS FOR 3-TUBE

Cockaday Receiving Set

1 Cockaday Coil
2 23-Plate Hy-Grads Cond.
1 Bakelite Rheostat, 6 ohm.
2 Bakelite Rheostat, 30 ohm.
3 Bakelite Sockets
1 high ratio Columbia or Thordarson Transformer
1 Single Circuit Jack
1 low ratio Columbia or Thordarson Transformer
2 Double Circuit Jacks
2 3 in. Bakelite Dials.
1 Grid Leak and Mica Cond.
7 Switch Points. 2 stops.
1 Bakelite Binding Post Strip
7 Binding Posts
1 7x21x1/4 in. Drilled Bakelite Panel
3 Bezels
1 Baseboard
1 switch lever
24 ft. Hook-up Wire

$19.95

Complete blue-prints and wiring diagrams.

1-Tube Set..... $10.45

LAURENCE COCKADAY was a standout in mid-1920s radio design and experimentation, with his "Cockaday Receiving Set" becoming a roaring favorite among young hobbyists of the era, despite stiff competition. Cockaday radios weren't just reliable—they delivered peak performance morning, noon, and night. In fact, during the Golden Age of radio, having a Cockaday on your desk all but guaranteed you'd pull in plenty of DX stations—and likely raise a few eyebrows while you were doing it.

The CLIMAX REFLEX wasn't far behind in delivering satisfaction. Seasoned radio builders knew that pairing a Cockaday with a Climax Reflex created a combination that left nothing to be desired—offering the kind of performance hams and SWL listeners chased after with enthusiasm.

■ -Dave W7UUU

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Plan Now: Upcoming POTA!

By BJ KO7T

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA POTA 2025 Schedule

This past year, the club hosted 11 POTA activations at 7 different parks, and we have BIG plans for 2025! To start the year, the club will again participate in Winter Field Day on January 25th and 26th from Kanaskat-Palmer State Park (US-3209) and will again schedule a POTA activation each month (except December). The club's current schedule is:

PARK: Saltwater State Park
DATE: February 16, 2025
TIMES: 10 AM PST

PARK: Dash Point State Park
DATE: March 16, 2025
TIMES: 10 AM PST

PARK: Lake Sammamish State Park
DATE: April 20, 2025
TIMES: 10 AM PST

Last month was our second annual **Winter Field Day POTA Event**. We stayed in two yurts with our group of operators.

Since the event was after the cutoff for the February Logger's Bark, be watching in the March issue for a full writeup with photos and our final stats. Thanks for all who were able to attend this fun event!

Everyone is invited to come to our POTA activation events. It's a great opportunity to learn about different antenna types, setting up and tuning antennas with loading coils and/or a counterpoise, learn about different digital modes, and other topics related to portable operations. We usually have 3 to 5 stations set up running many modes on multiple bands. We encourage prospective hams to get on the air, and those with Technician licenses to operate on different bands with a control operator. For club members with a General license, we even have a portable POTA kit that is available to check out from the club the Saturday prior to our club activations. Please see or email BJ Rollison (KO7T) for more information.

-BJ KO7T

BJ KO7T operating at a recent POTA activation

THIS PAST DECEMBER ANNE N7ANN AND I traveled to the Washington coastal port town of Westport, on the South shore of Grays Harbor. You may have noticed the lighthouse on the cover of this issue and the feature article on working Lighthouses on the Air… that was part of this same trip.

The Westport Light state park is pretty vast—560 acres—but most of it is all natural growth and habitat. The park was combined with the former Westhaven State Park in 2016 after a failed golf course development sold out (whew!) to create the massive park as it is today.

Other than a 4-mile ADA-accessible paved walking trail along the 1200-plus feet of shoreline, there is very little public access due to the nature of the park. The part of the park accessible for activities like POTA activations consists of a mere 1.5 acres (which is mostly a parking lot) at the extreme south end of the park (see yellow circle in photo below). There are a handful of picnic tables, a restroom building, and a parking area. Outside of that, and the paved shoreline trail, there is no access to the interior of the park at this time.

But given that we were staying in the extremely close adjacent condos for 4 days around Christmas, it was very easy to set up and work fairly long POTA sessions at one of the tables closest the complex.

In the POTA system, this is park US-3290. I divided my time over two operating sessions—one on December 23 and the other on December 24 before heading home. Due to the very high RFI noise from the massive condo complex, SSB was utterly not an option. CW didn't fare much better—I only wrangled out six QSOs. So it was FT8 for the win. In all, I achieved a total of 99 QSOs (92 on FT8) and had a lot of fun. The weather wasn't the best – but that's how winter POTA goes sometimes!

73 *-Dave W7UUU*

TALE OF THE TALKIE TOOTER®

By Dave W7UUU

Header photo: Mt. St. Helens by Lyn Topinka, Public Domain

UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN AROUND PACIFIC NORTHWEST logging operations or know someone who is in the biz, you *very likely* have never seen what I'm about to describe. I can say this even as a lifelong local PNW guy here in the logging capitol of the U.S.

Wife Anne N7ANN and I were traveling the region last August on a long 20th Anniversary trip around Washington and Oregon. One of our stops was the Mt. St. Helens museum and visitor's center high up the mountain where the massive eruption occurred on May 18, 1980 (an event both she and I witnessed in person together that summer as teenagers).

While touring the museum that afternoon, a small display caught my eye:

"Talkie Tooter"
A portable radio transmitter carried on the belt of the rigging slinger. It's used to send signals to the Tower that may be 1500 feet up the hill. The signals are sent to insure the safety of the logging crew.
The attached signals are for you to use with this "Talkie Tooter" by squeezing the magnet against the silver shaft.

Photo: Dave W7UUU

Called the "Talkie Tooter", I immediately realized this was some sort of radio device used in the logging industry! This sent me down my usual rabbit holes of research to find out what this device was all about, who made it, and hopefully share it with others here in The Logger's Bark as a radio gizmo!

The Talkie Tooter is considered something of a communication lifeline for loggers here in the Pacific Northwest (and I'm sure other regions as well). It's not new tech—it was introduced by a PNW company called Rothenbuhler Engineering in 1953 and has been in constant use since the day it came on the market. It's a portable radio signaling system that was developed specifically to tackle the challenges of communication in extremely noisy, rough, and hazardous logging and mining environments.

Like most other radio systems, it's a two-piece setup with transmitters and receivers. It operates in the Part 15 "license free" frequency range of 72 to 75 MHz (shared with many systems, including RC aircraft, assistive listening systems, and others).

The transmitter is highly ruggedized (silver metal device in photo at left) that the logger can clip to his belt. When operated by the logger, the transmitter sends an encoded signal to a receiver installed either in a major piece of logging equipment (in the operator's cab) or at a central control location. The signals are then translated into audible alerts such as whistles, bells, or beeps (often hugely amplified out to speaker arrays) across the site.

The audible signals form a sort of "Morse code" kind of effect—"whistle codes" as they are termed by Talkie Tooter—which are a standardized system of short commands that everyone on the site memorizes. For example, three whistles ("toots") might mean "Go ahead" while four whistles could indicate "Slack the mainline".

(Continued on page 65)

TALE OF THE TALKIE TOOTER®

By Dave W7UUU

Mt. St. Helens: Lyn Topinka, Public Domain

WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY
SIGNALS FOR HIGH LEAD LOGGING OPERATIONS

O	STOP ALL LINES
OOO OOO	AHEAD SLOW ON MAINLINE
OOO	AHEAD ON MAINLINE
OO	AHEAD ON HAULBACK
OO OO	AHEAD SLOW ON HAULBACK
OOO O	AHEAD ON STRAWLINE
OOO O OOO	AHEAD SLOW ON STRAWLINE
OOOO	SLACK MAINLINE
OO OOOO	SLACK HAULBACK
OOO O OOOO	SLACK STRAWLINE
OOO OO	TIGHTLINE
OO	TIGHTLINE WHILE LINES ARE RUNNING OR BREAK IF RUNNING TIGHT
OOO O	WHEN RIGGING IS IN: STRAWLINE BACK ON HAULBACK
OOO O OO	STRAWLINE BACK ON RIGGING
O	WHEN RIGGING IS IN: CHASER INSPECT & REPAIR RIGGING
OO	WHEN RIGGING IS IN: NO CHOKERS BACK
OO O	NUMBER CHOKERS BACK (2 S, Pause and 1 S and number)
OO OOOO	WHEN RIGGING IS IN: SLACK HAULBACK AND HOLD ALL LINES UNTIL 2 SHORT IS BLOWN
– – –	HOOKER
– – – OOOO	HOOKER AND HIS CREW

O IS SHORT; SPACE BETWEEN IS FOR A PAUSE; – IS MEDIUM WHISTLE

Photo: Dave W7UUU

The chart above is a typical table of "whistle codes" - in this case, specific to the primary logging company in the area, the Weyerhaeuser Company. This was from a Talkie Tooter setup that dates to around the time Mt. St. Helens was blowing her top.

Unidentified logger on site with his bright red Talkie Tooter on his belt ready for use
Photo: Weyerhaeuser Company

The audible "toots" were a standardized system of short commands, memorized by all workers on the site. If a worker moved to a different site, the standardized codes would be the same there.

The whole purpose of the codes was to enhance safety and efficiency in an extremely loud and dangerous environment. Coordinating complex logging operations is a "critical mission" where failure to communicate could mean injury or death. The Talkie Tooter provides for such communication without the need for voice communication (say, via Motorola HTs etc.). That would simply be impractical in such environments. By using the same standardized "tooter" codes, loggers can ensure seamless coordination between team members, machine operators, and supervisors and drastically help reduce errors and above all, accidents.

Operation manual for a Talkie Tooter model 1200. Click photo to download.

TALE OF THE TALKIE TOOTER®

By Dave W7UUU

Mt. St. Helens: Lyn Topinka, Public Domain

Over the years, the Talkie Tooter has evolved to incorporate advanced features to keep up with modern demands. Earlier models (such as the museum piece featured on the first page of this article) relied on two-tone audio signals. But newer versions such as the Model 1200 (see manual image and link, previous page) use much more capable digital signaling for improved reliability. The transition from analog to digital greatly reduces the likelihood of signal interference, even in dense forests where communication can be disrupted by terrain.

Digital communication also greatly expands the number of code sequences ("Whistle tones"), allowing operators to tailor site-specific codes if needed, beyond the standardized list that all loggers have memorized.

Power for the modern systems is pretty much what you'd expect—3.6v lithium-ion batteries (vs the original NiCad batteries from the Mt. St. Helens era). The newer batteries also hold up much better in cold weather as might be expected in harsh mountain logging sites. This is undoubtedly an important consideration, given the conditions where a lot of logging takes place in PNW mountains.

The modern transmitters have expanded from the original 1200 feet range up to a pretty impressive 5000 feet (in more ideal terrain of course) which makes the system adaptable to larger logging sites. Try as I might, I could not locate even an MSRP cost for a modern Talkie Tooter system—but I suspect it's pretty steep to us, as ham radio folks. But for the life-and-death world of industrial logging, whatever the system costs, it is worth it.

As far as any research I did, there don't appear to be any competitors to Talkie Tooter. Kenwood and Motorola of course sell vast arrays of FM radio gear into the logging world—but really nothing out there competes with the Talkie Tooter in its highly focused market. They appear to be the undisputed leaders in this niche and I think their half-century success record ensures they will be the only game in town for many years to come.

If you've never been to the Mt. St. Helens Visitor's Center and Museum, here's a LINK—you really should give it a try if you're ever in the greater Seattle area (it's about 2 hours South of the city to get to the mountain). It's well worth it.

If I had a Talkie Tooter right now, I would toot "73 and thanks for reading".

-Dave W7UUU

Dave W7UUU with wife Anne N7ANN on our 20th anniversary, August 28, 2024, high atop Mt. St. Helens at the Visitor's Center—Photo: S. Elphie

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!

W7UUU

Hidden Word Contest

THIS MONTH'S HIDDEN WORD IS: **reactance**

Reactance refers to the opposition to the flow of alternating current flow caused by inductance or capacitance in a circuit, which affects the phase relationships between voltage and current. The word will be hidden in a sentence but cannot be searched as it is an image! And of course, this page does not count! Be the first to find the word and email me to let me know and you'll be mailed some awesome bumper stickers!

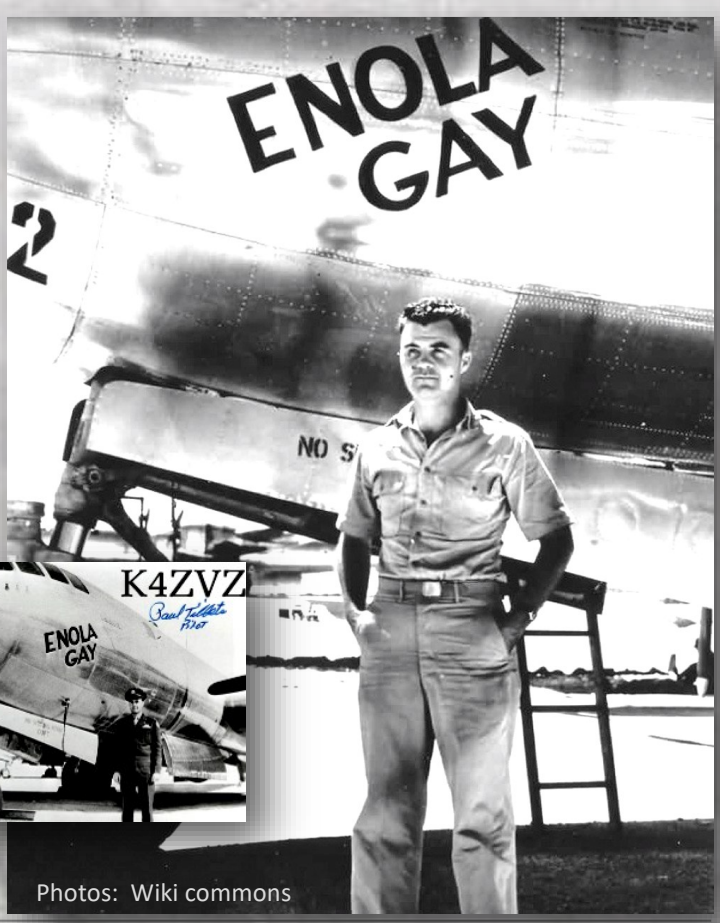
Hidden Object Contest

THIS MONTH'S HIDDEN OBJECT is a block of a form of lead sulfide mineral with a metallic luster and perfect crystalline cleavage, called **galena**. It's been used for many practical purposes since ancient times. But in 1900 inventor Greenleaf Whittier Pickard discovered that galena could act as a detector of radio waves. So the very first "crystal radios" derive their name from the use of a crystal of galena as the main active part of the detector.

Famous Ham February Birthdays

Paul Tibbets Jr., K4ZVZ (SK), born February 23, 1915, was a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. He's best known as the aircraft captain who flew the B-29 Superfortress known as the Enola Gay (named after his mother) when it dropped the first of two atomic bombs used in warfare on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Gen. Tibbets was an active ham throughout the 1950s and 60s, but in later years his hearing began failing and he drifted away from the hobby. Finally in 1998 he allowed his license to lapse while he was living in Florida. In his prime, Tibbets was a top-notch CW operator.

-Dave W7UUU To read more—click HERE



Photos: Wiki commons

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!

W7UUU

Survey Center!

Which modes do you use at least ONCE PER MONTH

Edit

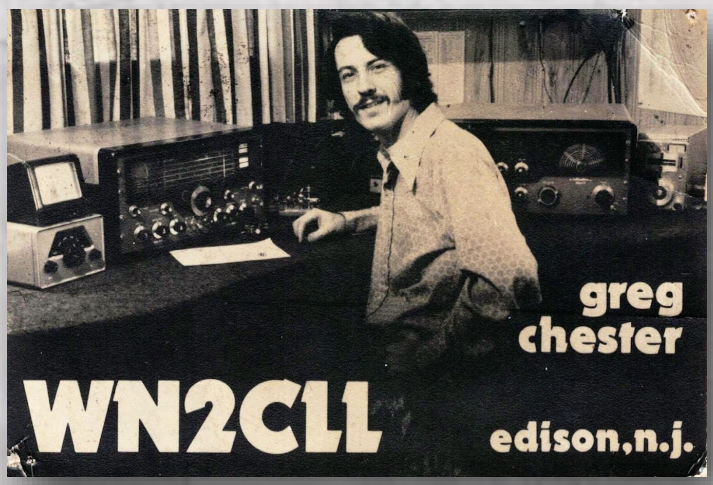
* CW	85 vote(s)	55.6%
* SSB	106 vote(s)	69.3%
AM	23 vote(s)	15.0%
* FM	67 vote(s)	43.8%
SSTV	7 vote(s)	4.6%
RTTY	10 vote(s)	6.5%
* FT8/FT4	64 vote(s)	41.8%
Olivia	6 vote(s)	3.9%
PSK (any)	12 vote(s)	7.8%
Other (explain in comments)	12 vote(s)	7.8%

INTERESTING POLL OF QRZ USERS and which modes they typically use at least once a month. Of course, for those who *love* to remind me, this is *not a scientific poll* and only reflects users of QRZ who happen to have found the polling section and further, they decided to vote. So NO it is not scientific. But that doesn't stop it from being interesting and revealing. For me personally, I was actually surprised to see the CW vote be as high as it is—in fact, representing just about the same relationship to SSB that has always been the case. Most of the "Other" votes were for JS8call (some for D-Star etc. but those are sub-modes of FM—the polling tool only allows 10 options). My votes have the asterisk *.

Thanks to all who voted—*Dave W7UUU*

QSL Card of the Month

IN DECEMBER 1975 AT AGE 14, I worked Greg WN2CLL on 15m CW. When I got his QSL card, I thought that was the coolest station I could possibly imagine! (Our club now has that very lineup in the museum). My QSL to him wasn't so fancy—I made my own cards using the Hunt Jr. High mimeograph as an office aid! I recently emailed with him and lo-and-behold, he still had my QSL and sent me a photo! He had only been a ham a month then, later upgrading to WB2CLL. He worked as a photographer at the time, so his QSL card was also hand-made—printed on photo paper in his darkroom! Thanks for the memories, Greg!
-73 *Dave W7UUU*



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HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small

PROJECT PROFILE

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE BARK, I FEATURED A VERY COOL, very inexpensive, regulated power supply kit designed and sold as a small "cottage business" shop by Steve KW4H. This month it's the second offering, this time fully assembled and tested. This one is an HF calibrator & marker generator that sells for only $30. It's perfect for pairing with receivers such as discussed in this month's Museum column featuring the SX-111 receiver. And as with the previous kit, I have no affiliation other than Steve is a friend who makes cool little gizmos for hams. What follows is from his blurb as relates to his "Ham Made Gear" QRZ ad. *-Dave W7UUU*

Steve KW4H here again with another ham radio gadget sure to please. This HF calibrator & marker generator, sells for only $30 through QRZ's "Ham Made Gear" marketplace, is a meticulously engineered device tailored for amateur radio operators seeking enhanced accuracy in their HF operations. This compact instrument generates frequency markers with a tight accuracy of up to 100 Hz, serving as a reliable reference point for calibrating older HF receivers and ensuring optimal performance across the entire HF spectrum.

Key Features:

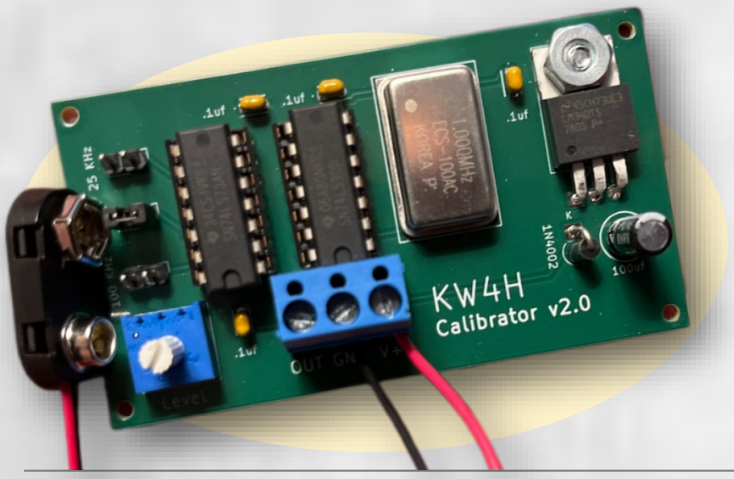
- Extremely wide frequency range, covering the entire HF spectrum with clean even-spaced marker signals
- User-selectable intervals: 100KHz, 50KHz, or 25KHz
- High precision: 100 Hz accuracy
- Compact board: 2.9" x 1.6"
- Versatile power options: 9v battery (clip included) up to 30 volts DC so can be receiver-powered
- Made in USA—fully assembled and tested—ready to go

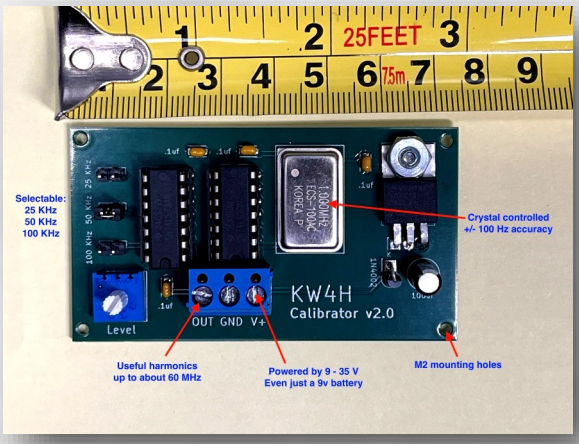
Applications:

- Integration into boat anchor receivers: easy to slip inside just about any receiver to provide calibration signals
- Receiver calibration: use on the test bench to provide frequency makers for verification and calibrations
- Receiver testing: Use it in portable operation—just use clip leads to hook to any receiver under test
- Educational: use for training and demonstration of how receiver calibration works and how to go about it

As with the other KW4H products and gizmos, this Calibrator and Marker generator is 100% guaranteed. These products are all made at home, in my own shop, from my own designs—I do this mostly for the fun of it knowing it helps others. The prices are low because I want to keep products like this affordable for hams who like to tinker with old radios on their workbench. In fact, that's how these things come about—I design them for my own use. Click either photo to learn more.

-Steve KW4H





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This is the shack of Emil Koth K7GPK (SK 1987), RCT Member #427 who joined in 1959. Emil was involved in many of the social activities of the club, and turns up in a fair number of the old archive photos that I and others have digitized over the years. He was one of the founding forces behind *The Logger's Bark* in 1963, and was one of the first editors. He helped manage *The Bark* for many years. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1973. I met him two years later when I joined the club and he always had a smile and a good word for newbies like me.

His station in this photo only shows the "Scratchy Apache" Heathkit TX-1 Apache transmitter, with a B&W SSB adapter (photo is dated 1966, and SSB was by then the new hot thing in amateur radio so folks like Emil were adapting their old rigs). The receiver isn't visible in this photo but in other photos I have, it was a Hammarlund HQ-170 triple-conversion ham-bands-only receiver—one of the best of its era.
-Dave W7UUU

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU

KM3KM Mercury Lite Amplifier

KM3KM ELECTRONICS, FOUNDED IN 2019, is the newest player in the world of amateur radio amplifiers. The company was established by Kenny Martinez, KM3KM, who began his journey in amateur radio in Cuba before emigrating to the U.S.

In just a few short years, the company has gained significant market recognition for its line of Mercury amplifiers and the Mercury AT antenna tuner. I personally know of several very happy users of both the Mercury IIIs as well as the newer Mercury LUX amplifiers. In fact, the Radio Club of Tacoma has a Mercury IIIs with matching AT tuner in regular service in the HF room (paired with the club's Flex 6600). Everyone who has used it has had very positive comments so far as I have heard.

KM3KM just announced a new product in the lineup that according to their web site [LINK] will start shipping in May of this year.

It's called the Mercury Lite 600-Watt HF Amplifier

There's not a lot of information on the KM3KM LLC website right now, but there is an online manual you can download HERE that tells all about the new amp.

From the manual, I was able to glean the following:

Key Features:

Frequency Coverage: 80-6m ham bands (*not* 60m)

Power Output: 600 watts all modes

Input power: 5-40 watts, 12.5 dB gain typical

RF amp transistors: 2x MRF300 LDMOS

Metering: FWD, REF, SWR, as well as volts/amps

Band Switching: Automatic using RF sampling

Tuner: Built-in autotuner with SWR protections

User Interface: 5-inch high-resolution color touch screen user interface

Physical: pretty compact—4.5" tall, 7" wide, and 11.5" deep—about the size of a small radio external speaker. Weight is 14 pounds (less power supply).

Certifications: FCC Part 15 certified

One of the big bullet points both in the manual as well as on the web page is the fact it's considered "smallest in its class". This is certainly true, as far as any other amps I've ever seen on the market. The Ameritron ALS-600 solid-state 600w amp is huge by comparison. The Mercury Lite certainly could be a solid contender for "Expedition" operating and quite possibly for POTA (Parks on the Air), although it's not anywhere near the "pocket-size shack" range.

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU

The biggest hurdle for most users is going to be the power supply. According to the manual, the Mercury Lite requires 48-53 volts at 25 amps. While that may seem to some to be a tall order, AC power supplies that can provide 48v at 25A are all over Amazon.com [LINK] for prices well under $100! Of course, they are all switching supplies not specifically designed for ham radio use so RFI might be a concern. Over time, I'm sure suitable AC supply recommendations will start appearing in online user reviews of the Mercury Light. Or Kenny will possibly design and market one.

For POTA use, it's another story. The class of battery to power a 600 watt amplifier is along the lines of an electric scooter, lawn mower or golf cart battery. Typically such batteries run in the $300 price range and weigh as much as 30 pounds. So for any sort of portable radio work, you'll want to consider POTA parks with picnic tables that sit next to the parking lot! With the amplifier at 14 pounds and the battery at 30, plus your transceiver and other gear, a 600w POTA station—despite the small size of the amp itself—is going to be something of a challenge for all but the most robust of operators to haul out into the field.

Possible suitable battery—click to view on Amazon

While the Mercury Lite 600 does include an internal antenna tuner, it's fairly limited with a matching range of only 3:1 so this means that your best bet is going to be resonant antennas rather than random wires. That's the same matching range of the Icom IC-7300 and similar modern transceivers that were never designed to match compromise antenna loads as might be seen in a POTA application.

Of course, you could always add one more box to your 600 watt POTA rig and bring your LDG600Pro tuner with you, which can handle a much higher 10:1 ratio. That would allow you to use a wider range of antennas in a portable situation, without them having to be natively band-resonant.

While the manual does say the amp has built-in protection, it appears to be "all or nothing" meaning that if the tuner can't find a match, it will simply not allow the amplifier to run. Which of course is probably a good thing!

Only recently has the price been announced on the KM3KM website: $1,986 which really is pretty astounding in my opinion. When you consider that the nearest contenders in the 600-watt solid state price class would be: the Ameritron ALS-600S at $2,500, the Ameritron ALS-606S at $2,600, the Elecraft KPA500 at $3,299 (and only being 500 not 600 watts) and the RM Italy BLA600 at $3,425… none of which have tuners... it becomes very apparent the Mercury Lite may very well hit a home run. Never mind that MFJ is now gone (which includes Ameritron), which really just leaves the Elecraft and RM Italy as options.

Hopefully by the time summer rolls around, the Mercury Lite 600 amplifier will be in the hands of hams around the world and the real reviews will start coming in. Until then, I have to say this looks like a really promising new amplifier that fills a definite niche in the amateur radio marketplace.

-Dave W7UUU

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU

THIS MONTH'S MUSEUM FEATURED RIG is one of the greats of the early 1960s ham radio scene—the Hallicrafters SX-111. It's a ham-bands only receiver, covering 80 through 10 meters (no WARC bands of course, as they did not yet exist). It debuted in 1961 with an initial price of $249.50 ($2,585 in today's dollars), putting it at the higher end of amateur-band receivers of its day. The SX-111 was more or less a rehash of the earlier (and more expensive) SX-100 receiver, also considered to be one of the top-tier receivers of that era. But the original SX-111 lacked a product detector which is essential for good SSB reception. It merely had a BFO which was fine for CW use but was not ideal for SSB. A product detector gets its name from how it works—by mixing the incoming SSB signal with a local oscillator producing an output that is proportional to the product of these two signals. A simple BFO, while able to tune in SSB signals fairly well, often produces distorted signals.

Randy WB4SPB in the W7OS Museum station using the SX-111 receiver paired with a Knight T-60 CW transmitter

The late 1950s and early 1960s were the golden age of the new fangled Single Sideband coming into fashion on the ham bands. But the SX-111 design, intended to offer most of what the SX-100 could do but at a lower cost, did away with the product detector. Since SSB was not yet dominant, it was a cost-cutting move (one less tube).

But it didn't take long for the market to speak, and Hallicrafters updated the SX-111 to the Mark 1 and brought back the product detector of the SX-100, by adding a 14th tube—a 6BY6.

In addition, the original SX-111 was known to be drifty—slowly changing frequency during a QSO. Many DIY fixes were published but the reality was it

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W70S DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU

was a flawed design. The 6C4 first oscillator was prone to thermal sensitivity and would drift off frequency as the heat built inside the cabinet.

So for the SX-111 Mark 1, not only was the product detector added for improved SSB operation, Hallicrafters engineers also implemented a number of temperature compensation measures to tame the drift.

Another interesting departure from the SX-100, was to move away from the old-school "band set with bandspread" 2-dial scheme of most of their prior receivers (with the exception of the beautiful SX-101 and a couple others). This makes it much easier for operators to tune. The reason for this is simple: the older 2-dial receivers required setting the very broad-range Band Set dial to an indicator mark on the scale noting the beginning of a given ham band. This had to be very precisely done, because only then would the Bandspread dial markings properly match the indicated frequency on that dial.

It was (and still is) virtually impossible to do this accurately without using some sort of frequency calibrator, often built into the receiver itself. That would place a solid signal every 50 or 100 KHz across the dial, allowing the operator to set the Bandspread on a known 50 or 100 KHz mark, then delicately tweak the Band Set dial until the marker signal could be heard.

These days, it's pretty easy to do this using the old two-dial receivers: simply put the Bandspread dial where it is set for the FT8 frequency for that band (7.074, 14.074, 21.074, etc.). Then tune the Band Set dial until the unmistakable tones of FT8 digital signals are heard. You now know the Bandspread is set in the right spot.

But using a single-dial receiver like the SX-111 (or its SWL sister, the SX-110 all-band receiver) is much simpler: what you see on the long slide-rule dial is the frequency you are tuned to. Even modern hams who have never used the old rigs like this can figure out an SX-111 or SX-110 dial. But the dual dials of the SX-100, the S-85, or SX-99 etc. would be far more challenging, and success for an inexperienced user will likely be very low without instruction from an Elmer.

Next time you're in the Clubhouse on a Saturday open house, feel free to stop by the Museum and you can see this amazing old piece of hardware in all its glory—and if Dan KD7SV, the Museum Curator, or Randy WB4SPB are in the building, they will be happy to show you how things work.

Until next time, keep the tubes glowing!

-Dave W7UUU

ANTENNA TIME

LampTenna II: NAQP CW Results

Dave W7UUU

BACK IN OCTOBER AS A FUN CHALLENGE, I decided to find out just how effective a 1990s metal torchiere floor lamp could be as an impromptu indoor antenna. So I did just that, using the lamp as the vertical radiator and a single 16 foot radial strong around along the wall. Paired with an Elecraft T1 QRP tuner, I used a $69 QRP Labs QDX 4-watt digital transceiver to work FT8 and see how many contacts I could make. The results were amazing. Over the course of a 9-day period working it on and off, I garnered 131 contacts, reaching 34 states, 4 continents, 12 CQ zones and 12 DX entities. This was all with a mere 4 watts and the "LampTenna" system. Click HERE to download the October Bark to read about this project.

I really wondered is it just the magic of FT8 decoding that made it work so well? Surely yes, there's no question that's a big part of it. But how would it work trying another mode such as CW? Would it be anywhere near as effective?

So in January, I reassembled my living room LampTenna station in time to work the NAQP CW contest. For a project like this, a contest is a great way to see how many stations you can work. This contest runs only 12 hours, and the one day it ran (January 11th) held other commitments for me—not the least of which being the W7DK General Meeting, as well as a medical visit to an ailing relative. My time would be limited. Two hours in fact, or just over: two hours and about 15 minutes was all I had available. I used the same tuner, the Elecraft T1, and this time the rig was my Icom IC-705 running 10 watts with an external 13.8v power supply.

Right off the bat, as I predicted, CW was a much tougher row to hoe than it had been with FT8! The "decoding between my ears" needed to have signals that were enough above the noise floor to allow solid copy. The contest exchange for NAQP thankfully is very simple: name and state. That helped a lot but still proved challenging especially for operators that had unusual names, such as Yanco, Gray, and Suke, where I questioned myself, "Did he really send Yanco?" and had to request a repeat just to be sure… Gray not Gary?!

And just as with the FT8 challenge back in October, my really productive bands with the LampTenna were 10 and 15 meters. Despite the Elecraft T1 being able to easily load the

Setup for this LampTenna event was very similar to the FT8 exercise in the October issue of The Bark—same Elecraft T1 antenna tuner, coax breakout box, and lamp connection. But this time I was running my Icom IC-705 (10 Watts) on CW. Photo at right is me operating NAQP CW with LampTenna

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ANTENNA TIME

LampTenna II: NAQP CW Results

Dave W7UUU

lamp system on all HF bands with zero effort, performance on 20 is just never good. And believe it or not, as before, the antenna did an OK job even on 40-meters despite the inefficiency at lower frequencies.

Viewing the N3FJP Contest Summary Report, you can see that of the 28 contacts I made, 11 were on 10-meters, while 40 and 15 tied at 8 each. 20 meters, as with the FT8 effort, was a bust. Just one contact and he was literally 3.2 miles from me, in Olalla, WA! I heard virtually zero stations on 20.

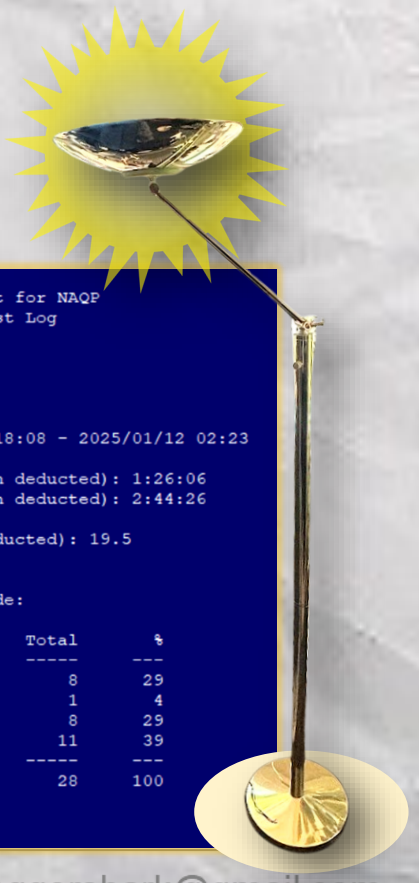
It would have been nice to have a much longer stretch of time on Saturday afternoon but I'm still pleased with the result. Evening noise really limited my use on 40 meters.

My best DX really tickled me pink—Suke JM7OLW in Japan. It took a few repeats both ways but we pulled it off. As far as states worked, I racked up 12 in all, with the most distant being Hawaii, Alaska, and Florida. Here in the Northwest we seem to have a frequent pipeline into Florida and I worked two, but *heard* a number of others. One fun event was Tom, K7QA in Montana, followed immediately by Tom, K0SN also in Montana! And for those who don't "do Morse", sending **Tom MT** in code is all dahs (dashes): T O M M T which really sounds fun to hear on the air as a CW guy!

It was a lot of fun. But would I recommend folks trying this themselves? Sure—just don't expect Yagi performance or even outdoor dipole performance. Yes, it works but it requires your skills as an operator to be fairly honed because with only a couple exceptions, not a single QSO was "Q5 copy". The slightest bit of QSB (fading) could easily make copy impossible. I had many QSOs not complete (thus not logged) because a very slight fade took them below the noise. However if this is all you were able to muster, it can be really fun accepting the challenge of such limited conditions and seeing just what you can do.

Down the road, I still plan to do one more LampTenna challenge: working a SSB contest in a similar manner. However I hold out no aspirations for a level of success even as good as the CW test was, never mind the amazing results of the FT8 adventure last fall. Sideband voice truly demands a strong signal to noise ratio. Of the three mode groups (FT4/8 Digital, CW, and SSB) sideband will absolutely be the worst option. Until then, 73!

-Dave W7UUU



```
ADDRESS-COUNTRY:
EMAIL:
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-11 1808  VE5GC          Gray       SK
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1818  KG9N           Chuck      IL
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1827  W0ZA           Greg       NE
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1830  AD5A           Mike       TX
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1833  W1RCR          Yanco      FL
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1836  AC0C           Jeff       KS
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1841  W1CW           Bob        FL
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1843  K0PC           Pat        MN
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1845  KQ4R           Ed         FL
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1852  K7ZQ           Walt       WA
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 1855  KR2AA          Eric       NY
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-11 2319  K7ZQ           Walt       WA
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-11 2320  K6NR           Dana       AZ
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-11 2322  KN6VQ          Jac        CA
QSO: 28000 CW 2025-01-11 2328  JM7OLW         Suke       JM7
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-11 2332  KH6AQ          Dave       HI
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-12 0004  NX6T           Pat        CA
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-12 0007  K7ROG          Rog        AZ
QSO: 21000 CW 2025-01-12 0009  WA7NB          Art        AZ
QSO: 14000 CW 2025-01-12 0115  N7NM           Doug       WA
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0120  K7QA           Tom        MT
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0121  K0SN           Tom        MT
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0124  N7NM           Doug       WA
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0210  N6RK           Rick       CA
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0213  WJ9B           Bill       ID
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0214  N6ZFO          Bill       CA
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0220  AB7R           Greg       ID
QSO:  7000 CW 2025-01-12 0223  AE6Y           Andy       CA
END-OF-LOG:
```

```
W7UUU's Contest Summary Report for NAQP
Created by N3FJP's NAQP Contest Log
Version 5.3.7  www.n3fjp.com

Total Contacts = 28
Total Points = 504

Operating Period: 2025/01/11 18:08 - 2025/01/12 02:23

Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 1:26:06
Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 2:44:26

Avg Qs/Hr (breaks > 30 min deducted): 19.5


Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band       CW    Phone     Dig    Total       %
----       --    -----     ---    -----     ---
  40        8        0       0        8      29
  20        1        0       0        1       4
  15        8        0       0        8      29
  10       11        0       0       11      39
           --    -----     ---    -----     ---
Total      28        0       0       28     100
```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email loggersbark@gmail.com

Top Ten sghdffdghh

AS HAMS WE ALL KNOW VERY WELL that it doesn't matter how much you spend on a transceiver, if you don't have an antenna it won't matter because you will never hear a signal on the air. But antennas cover an enormous range from super simple and cheap to super complex and expensive. Doing some research on the most discussions about antennas on eHam and QRZ, I came up with this *very unscientific* list of the "Top Ten most Popular Antenna Types" used by hams today. ■ *-editor*

1	Basic 1-band Dipole
2	Vertical
3	End Fed Half Wave
4	Loop antenna (any type)
5	Random Wire
6	Fan Dipole
7	Portable "Buddipole"
8	Yagi Beam
9	Quad Antenna
10	SteppIR

Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

February 15. Salem Hamfair. Rickreall, OR. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* http://www.w7sra.com/ . Flyer in PDF.

March 8. Mike & Key Swapmeet. Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer in PDF.

April 12. N7YRC Tailgate Party, Union Gap, WA. Yakima Valley Emergency Management, 2403 S. 18th St., Union Gap, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* Map in PDF.

April (?) Kamiah Hamfest. American Legion Hall 618 Main St. Kamiah, ID. https://www.3riversarc.club

May 10. Stanwood Camano ARC 32nd Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest. Stanwood, WA. https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm .

May (?) SWIARC Spring 2025 Spring HamFest, Peace Valley Charter School, 1845 S. Federal Way, Boise, ID 83701 http://www.dosomethingradio.com

May 30, 31 and June 1. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. https://seapac.org/

Radio Club of Tacoma Ham Fair 1970

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

All About Grid Squares!

This column is reprinted monthly with permission of AF5NP from his blog www.NEWHAMS.info
References to FCC question numbers may be out of date but the content will still be accurate. Significant edits, updates and additions have been made by Logger's Bark Editor Dave W7UUU

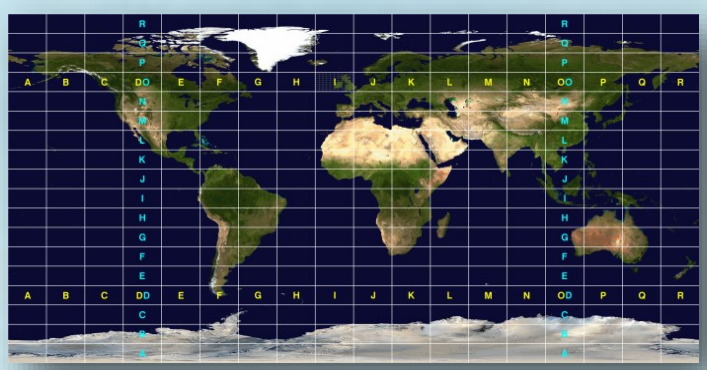
IF YOU ARE ACTIVE ON HF (especially on FT4/FT8) or non-repeater VHF/UHF frequencies, you should know your operational grid square when making contacts. Many hams need to know your exact location for logging and awards purposes. The entire FT4/FT8 digital system in fact is based around grid squares, as an important part of the data exchange. The grid square system was adopted by the IARU for specifying amateur radio station location in a relatively small area.

T8C05-2018: What is a grid locator?
A letter-number designator assigned to a geographic location

The planet is divided up into 32,400 grid squares roughly 100mi wide by 70mi high (in the continental USA) per the Maidenhead Locator System. More detail here.

Basically, our planet is divided into:
18×18=324 ***fields*** identified by two letters (AA-RR)

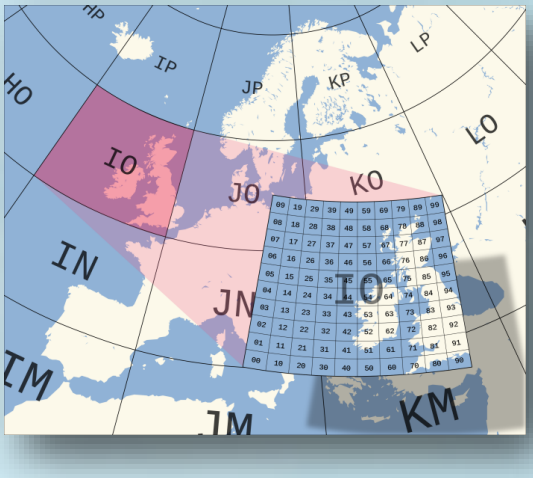
Each field is 20° longitude (east-west) and 10° latitude (north-south). The first letter represents longitude and the second latitude as shown in the image on the top right of this page. Political and government boundaries do not impact grid squares in any way. They do not follow borders!



Right-click photo "Open in New Tab" to see full size

Each ***field*** is sub-divided into 10×10=100 ***squares*** (OK… rectangles!) starting in the southwest counting north in columns of tens and shifting east for the next ten.

If you look carefully at field **IO** below (encompassing most of the UK and Ireland), you can see this refined grid. It looks like this in a more geodetic (less flat) view:



Right-click photo "Open in New Tab" to see full size

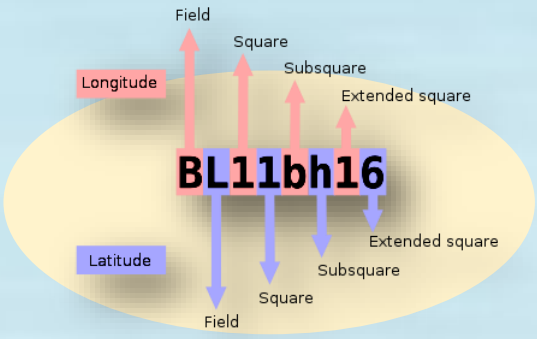
Here you can clearly see square 00, lower left and 99, upper right with the other 98 squares everywhere in between.

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

All About Grid Squares!

This combination of field plus square gives us the basic ***grid square*** system. It follows the specific format as shown below.



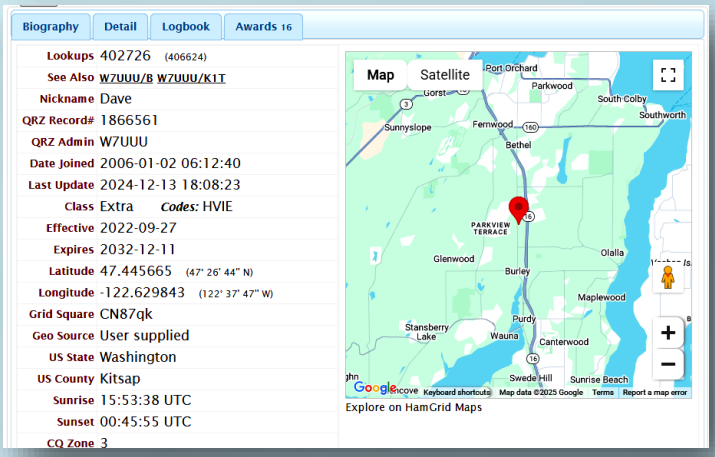
Of interest to most readers of this site, the continental United States is dominated by fields DN, EN, DM, and EM, and encompasses 488 grid squares, including little strips of land that overlap a square. Several are rare contacts with few (if any) active hams located there. They become popular destinations for "rover hams" during VHF & UHF contests for those seeking out "rare grid squares".

So the first four digits are the basic grid square. The grid square can be further refined into smaller chunks of sub-squares (roughly 4×3 miles) and even extended squares (very small units—roughly 1000 feet by 500 feet and not used in amateur radio).

For most radio amateur purposes, the basic four-digit grid square is adequate. Sub-squares are generally useful only for UHF and microwave contacts where more precise location is required, and are normally lower case alpha characters. As mentioned, extended squares are not used in amateur radio—at least not at this time.

Your grid square locator should be entered into any digital mode computer apps used for communication so that other stations know your location (QTH) - and most certainly in your WSJT-X or JTDX software for running FT-modes. It's also a good thing to include on your QSL card if you send one.

To determine your grid square, look at your own QRZ profile where it is automatically included based on your postal address registered with the governing national authority (FCC in USA). Example of your Editor's Details tab shown below:



For your Editor, it is CN87qk. It's good idea to double-check this against a grid square locator application in case there is a mistake. There are good websites for grid squares here and here and here.

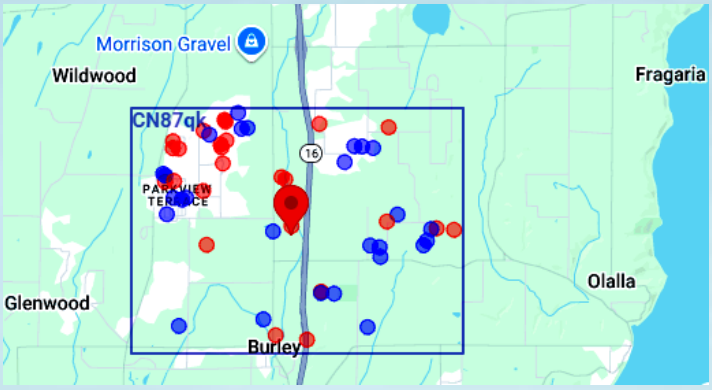
The QRZ site also has a nifty feature to allow one to explore grid squares and see where there might be hams in it, which you can find at THIS LINK.

Scroll to the next page to see a view of the Gridmapper tool from QRZ at work, with your Editor's own grid square and surrounding area pulled up. How many of these hams are active? I have no idea!

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

All About Grid Squares!



In the image above, your Editor Dave W7UUU is at the big red dot. The smaller red dots indicate stations with a QRZ account (possibly active!) and the blue dots indicate unmanaged call signs (likely not at all active, just folks that got a license but never registered with QRZ and likely not on the air). There are 52 hams registered in my sub-square! Amazing!

When operating away from home (portable, mobile) keep track of your location during contacts and report the appropriate grid square for the benefit of the other ham. This is particularly important for satellite operation where you are likely to be in an open or remote location.

Always make sure that you update whatever logging software or website you are using accordingly (N3FJP, QRZ, HRD, etc.). They all work "similarly but in different ways". There will always be a means to enter in a temporary grid square for your portable operations. This is particularly important for working FT4 & FT8, as well as satellite operation.

Hopefully this will help demystify the whole grid square concept for you going forward.

-Jim AF5NP with contributions by Dave W7UUU

Are Grid Squares a Safety Thing?

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE HEARD and read from time to time hams discuss the Maidenhead grid square system as a way of mapping out areas for safety work in amateur radio… along the lines of setting up search areas (using the 6-digit sub-square system with smaller boundaries).

No amount of searching turned up any accounts of lives being saved solely to the rise of Maidenhead grid squares. But it's certainly possible that in some situations grid squares could indeed provide a framework for ground searches. There are apps as well as stand-alone devices that will directly read grid squares, as well as grid boundaries. But they are actually simply using GPS coordinates, and overlaying the Maidenhead grid system over a GPS map in order to display which grid the searcher is in or is about to cross into.

Some larger scale events along the lines of elaborate bunny hunts have been documented, where grid squares were used as the mapping framework for such activities. And of course in day-to-day ham radio, especially in the era of FT4/FT8 and amateur satellites (since the inception of grid squares in the 1980s), this mapping system has become part of everyday ham life for many.

However for any serious search-and-rescue or true regional emergency applications using amateur radio, it really is advisable to use more universally recognized systems such as GPS coordinates for clarity and precision. Not to mention, many GPS devices can be set to avoid things like cliffs and ravines—something that Maidenhead grid squares most definitely do not concern themselves with.

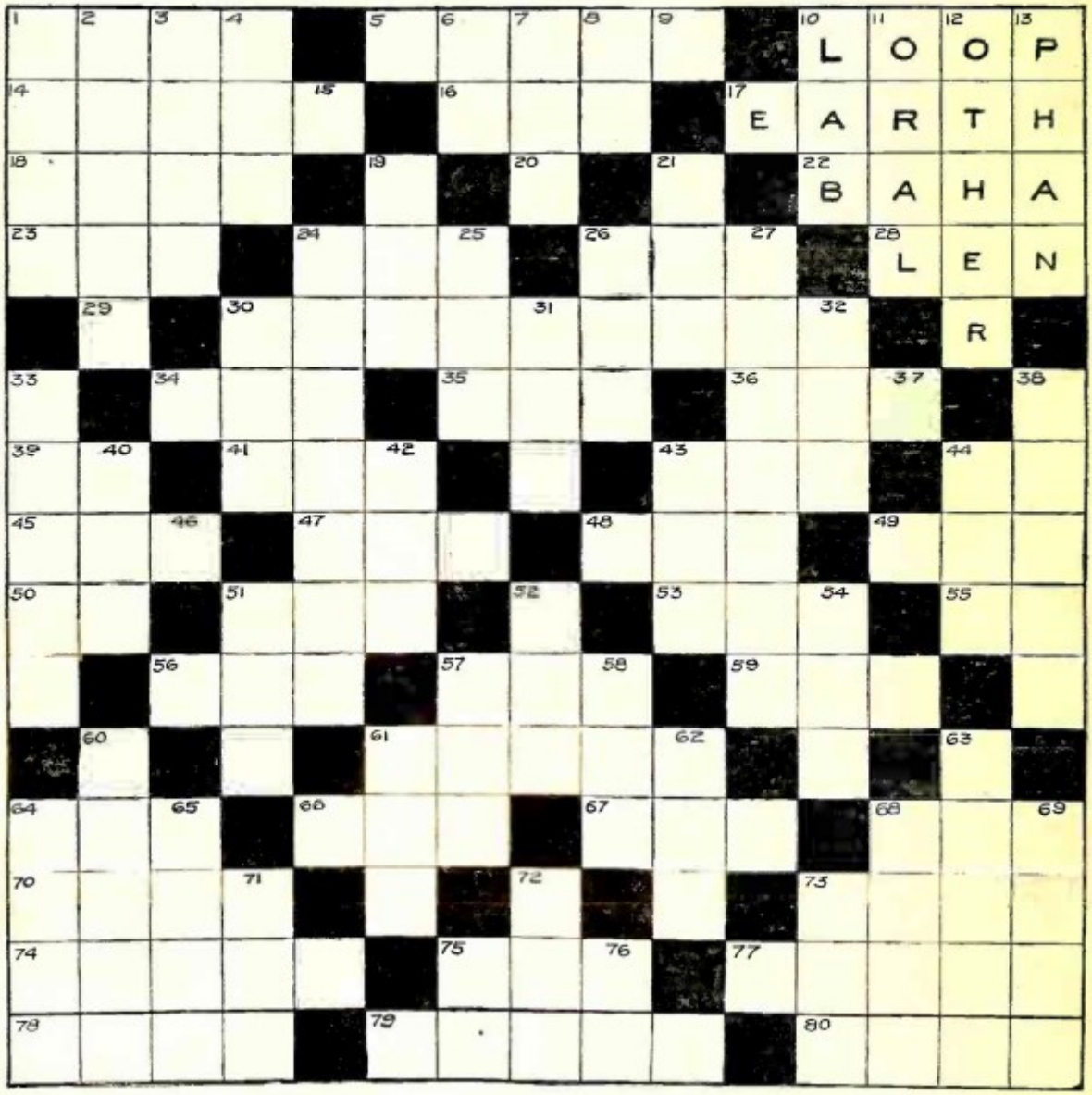
-Dave W7UUU

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.

February 1925 Crossword! Print this page to play!

Keeping Timely with a Radio CROSS-WORD Puzzle



By JOHN B. RATHBUN

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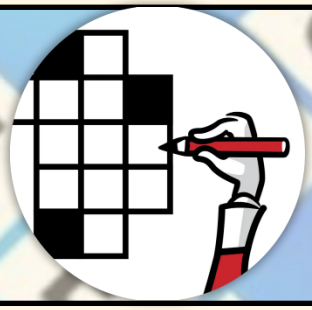
email loggersbark@gmail.com

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Here's the words list! No answer key—this is hardcore!

VERTICAL LINES

1. Contained in a storage battery.
2. Communication by Hertzian waves.
3. A well known reflex circuit.
4. Old.
6. By.
7. Battery (Abr.).
8. Low potential (Abr.).
10. Experimenter's work room (Abr.).
11. Pertaining to the mouth.
12. Different.
13. A name often used for a radio "Nut."
19. Part of the verb "to be."
21. Amperes, Volts, Ohms (Abr.).
24. A substance which cannot be decomposed by any known method.
25. Victorious Army Aviator.
26. Unit of work.
27. A wire for collecting radio waves.
30. Female sheep.
31. A high explosive.
32. Prefix meaning salt. Used in dry battery electrolytes.
33. Space occupied by magnetic forces.
38. Positive electrode.
40. Naval Radio Station Call number.
42. A hobby.
43. Beverage.
44. To grow old.
51. Space between two parts.
52. Moisture found in plants (Juice).
54. Immerse.
57. Drinking vessel.
58. By.
60. Annoying noise made by tube set which affects neighboring aerials (slang phrase).
61. To droop.
62. To polish or shine.
63. The name of the stage which amplifies at voice frequency.
69. Amperes (Abr.).
65. Pulls along.
68. An extinct bird.
69. A gaseous element used in testing spark plugs.
71. Defector (Abr.).
72. Greek letter corresponding to "E".
73. A mechanical part used for giving a reciprocating motion to another part.
75. Brass (Abr.).
76. Objective pronoun.

HORIZONTAL LINES

1. Magnitude of surface.
5. A conductor made by twisting a number of small wires together.
10. A form of aerial.
14. Carried by a ship.
16. An intermediate connection to a coil.
17. To ground.
18. Doing nothing.
22. German trade mark for a make of radio apparatus.
23. Abbreviation of diameter.
24. Age or period.
26. Girl's name.
28. First name (abbreviated) of the Governor of Illinois
30. Small negative particles.
34. Debt.
35. Technical man (Abr.).
36. Pitch.
39. Not out.
41. Potential (Abr.).
43. Speaking apparatus (Abr.).
44. Indefinite article.
45. To consume.
47. Organ of hearing.
48. Women's husbands.
49. Self.
50. Oscillation constant (Abr.).
51. One of the connections on a receiver (Abr.).
53. Conjunction.
55. Editor (Abr.).
56. Patent (Abr.).
57. Cover.
59. Atmosphere.
61. Above (Prefix).
64. Alternator (Abr.).
66. Chart.
67. Move fast.
68. Pressing collection.
70. Temper of mind (Manner).
73. DA-DIT-DIT-DAA.
74. Energy.
75. British Thermal unit (Abr.).
77. The subject of this magazine.
78. Abbreviation for single pole, single throw switch.
79. A metal alloy.
80. Earth's satelite.

THIS IS A TOUGH ONE!

ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Anyone who completes this crossword, email me a scan or photo of the completed puzzle and I'll send a nice selection of radio stickers!

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

About this Publication

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

Emailing Officers

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

Contributions of Articles & photos

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: loggersbark@gmail.com or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

Radio Club of Tacoma Repeaters

Central Tacoma 2m:	**147.28 + PL Tone 103.5**
Central Tacoma 70cm:	**440.625 + PL Tone 103.5**
Crawford Mountain:	**147.380 + PL Tone 103.5**
North Tacoma:	**145.21 - PL Tone 141.3**

The Loggers Bark ***does not*** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

Membership Information

- Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit www.w7dk.org For the latest and most current information on events and activities

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CLICK HERE!

Have a submission for our next issue?

loggersbark@W7DK.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 5th, 2024

Meeting called to order at _____1901_____.

Officers and Directors Present

__X__	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
__X__	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
__X__	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
__X__	Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
__X__	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
__X__	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
__X__	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
__X__	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
__X__	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? 5 of 9 Officers / Directors needed __Yes_____

Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed: Motion to approve minutes as disseminated made by President Mike W7XTZ. Motion approved.

Silent Key or Illness?

Our treasurer (since 2017), two-time Doc Spike Inspirational Award winner (1979 and 2016), and long-time member, Steve Dightman, AB7YD, became Silent Key in November. Board members wished to make a memorial donation in his name. His widow requested that it go to their church, in which Steve was active. The board approved Mike Drorbaugh's motion to donate $200 to that church in recognition of Steve's long-time service to our club.

Bob Walter W7GRR Passed away this last September, 09/10/2024.

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Secretary Gary was on vacation last month, so he wants to thank EX-Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE for subbing for him during his absence. This absence turned out to be longer than he had planned due to picking up a nasty cold sometime during the trip. After he returned, his wife Sue got the same cold, which meant that Gary had to help her get well. As if that wasn't enough, Sue also took a tumble on the dark streets of Woodside NY. So, in addition to the cold, she was bruised up a bit.

Good news though, after extensive testing, no Covid, no major bruises, just a humdinger of a cold to get over with. So, Gary missed all the meetings last month!

Lots of Bigfoot special event envelopes came this month and they're still coming in. Also coming in this month are membership renewals. A busy fall is anticipated, but due to Mike W7XH's really great efforts to automate the process, we anticipate that the rush of paper renewals may diminish somewhat this year.

Treasurer's Report (Doug Schafer standing in for Steve AF7YD)

Report attached as of December 4th, 2024. Doug asked the BOD if we could simplify the monthly reports to the board during the next year. BOD agreed.

Committee Reports

Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

Adam reports that he was been working with Nick Winter on the tower, the entry panel and other small things. Mike & Key Shelving may be in the remainders of stuff that might be in AF7YD's home. We will be looking for that stuff during a follow up visit. (Addendum: the shelving was found on a subsequent visit.)

General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

This month's program is the annual awards meeting. January's original meeting is still in progress. Dave will be running the Video History Video for Steve AF7YD as the January meeting instead of the other planned video.

HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

The new Palstar amplifier is finally in the HF room. Long awaited / anticipated and a nice addition to the Icom station, especially when paired with the Palstar HF auto tuner.

All equipment is operational. Lou room Flex radio is still awaiting repair. In the meantime, the Icom-7300 is being used.

VHF/ UHF station also in good repair. Some contests are coming up soon, come up and operate!

Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal. No fourth Wednesday in December because it would be on Christmas day. Thursday operations day is still ongoing and will continue if there continue to be participants. Mike reports that people are beginning to show up as requested.
Becky KG7FZH requested more info be put on the website regarding the CQNW events.

Library (Doug AD7AV)

No report from Doug, Adam reports that a lot of material from AF7YD is still in triage.

Membership (Mike W7XH)

Report below. 382 member's total. Reports indicate that payments are about 50% digital vs checks. Discussion of payment methods ensued. Mike also explained about members who have not yet renewed. Further discussion taken offline.

Membership Breakdown as of 12/04/2024

Associate 1	1
Associate 2	3
Family	23
Family Plus	1
Full	123
Honorary	5
Lifetime	33
Promotional	23
Senior	166
Student	1
Total members	382
Members not paid	124

Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Dan reports some smoke testing on radios resulted in no smoke, but a GFI that they were testing did not like RF. They are testing equipment for Straight Key night on the 31st. So far, so good.

The museum needed an SDR play for testing was ordered and installed by Dan.

SK night is coming along with all the usual stuff, Morse code BINGO, and pizza for New Years Eve. Usual drill.

Dan is also looking for new headphones for the museum. Rich Patrick did drop off some headphones, but more are needed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Some discussion of the K3Y SKCC event ensued. This event is a month-long event in January.

Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

No report, planning committee will be meeting next in January, they will be averaging ten meetings a year.

Property Management (Red WB7EC)

Red reports last month we took in $2001 in sales. He also asks members to make offers if they see something in the garage that they want; PMT is always open to offers… PMT is getting ready for the Mike & Key swapmeet in March but will continue to take offers from the club members.

We are looking for a misplaced Elecraft KX2 that was acquired from Jimmy, K7SSS's estate. We have the serial number, and we will be looking for this radio.

Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

Al, reports that all our repeaters are up and operational. Al is busy this month with other stuff and will report back with more data next month.

Training (Stephan AD7AB)

No report.

Tower (Nick K7MO)

Nick is working with Adam on the tower.

Treasurer (Doug AB7DG: Assistant Treasurer filling in temporarily)

Recruiting a new treasurer is still in process… We do have a potential new treasurer in process.

VE (John AC7WW)

Your VE Team on Tuesday November 12TH hosted 22 candidates at the clubhouse. 40 exams were graded 16 passed their Technician Exam and one candidate passed elements one and two to become a General. Another candidate advanced to General and another advanced to Extra. We had four under the age of 17, the youngest (9) was the one of the four that passed. Four candidates failed to obtain an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Manny, AD7MA, Rich, KK7VH, Mike, W7XH, Rob, K7TGU, Stephen, AD7AB, Whit, KG7LNZ.

The next scheduled test session is December 10th

Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

No Wednesday workshop for December because that would fall on Christmas Day.

Unfinished Business:

Adam W2NCC has this reminder for the board:

Treasurer position needs filling. Adam W2NCC, reached out to Shay Winget and confirmed she is interested in the treasurer's duties. She will be available in January to begin working with Doug to understand the treasurer processes and responsibilities.

2025 Committee Budgets need to be sent to the BOD for consideration.

Stickers for membership? Mike W7MKE wants funding for stickers for the Loggers Bark hidden word contest. Art to be determined. $200 is the amount requested. Motion carried.

New Business?

Bob Heselberg suggests this: Here's my thought to give out mugs to bigfoot operators as discussed at clubhouse on Saturday This one is 15 dollars in Elbe store.

BOD inclinations were generally not favorable to this item, but we do have some agreement that a glass etched might be possible. Mike W7MKE will investigate this. (Mike did provide etched glass mugs for all operators)

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Becky KG7FZH asks: Kindly add CQNW Radio Weekend to the agenda. As with last year, we will be utilizing the club over-night and need board representation and/or authorization in the absence of a board member.
Becky indicates around 4-5 adults and 15 kids. Sam & Becky will be the adults representing the club.

Adam, W2NCC asked two questions about CQNW insurance. Becky indicated that they did have insurance specifically for these events. Adam then asked them if there would be a parental authorizations form on hand. Becky indicated that that they did have this. Doug Schafer indicated that insurance should issue a rider making RCT an additional insured called an accord rider/ Accord certificate that would indicate that RCT is fully covered as an additional insured for this event.

Mike, W7MKE also suggests this: Under New Business**: *gifts for W7DK members who attend the Banquet*.** In years past we've come up with about $250 for 5-$50 prizes, usually gift cards.
Mike made a motion authorization for $250 for prizes for the banquet. President Mike seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Dave, W7UUU has this: Anne and I have Qty. 2 brand new custom XL tee shirts with the AC7WW "W7DK 100th Anniversary" badge emblazoned on the fronts.

These are to be donated for use as additional "red ticket door prize" items for the Banquet - I just wanted to make sure Leonard or whoever needs to know I will bring this next week for the banquet.

Adjournment at: _____2030_____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance sheets.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
Board of Directors Meeting
December 5th, 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Clubhouse	Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Dave	W7GEL	
2	Paul	K7OSS	
3	Mike	W7XH	
4	Dave	AC7KP	
5	Sam	N9MII	
6	Becky	KJ7?	
7	Mike Isakson	W7XH	
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	
2	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	
3	Red Cranefield	WB7EC	
4	Phil Pia	K7PIA	
5	Randy Meyers	WB4SPB	
6	George Salisbury	K7GRS	
7	Jeff Winget	W8NGS	3110

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting

W7DK

Due to the fact the Holiday & Awards Banquet fell on the

Saturday that would have been the General Meeting for December 2024, no meeting was conducted—it was preempted by the awards banquet.

-Editor

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.